Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Suspended Island Medical resumes operations. PAGE 2

Santos resigns, Villagomez business as usual. PAGE 2

Only 3 engines at PP1 working

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

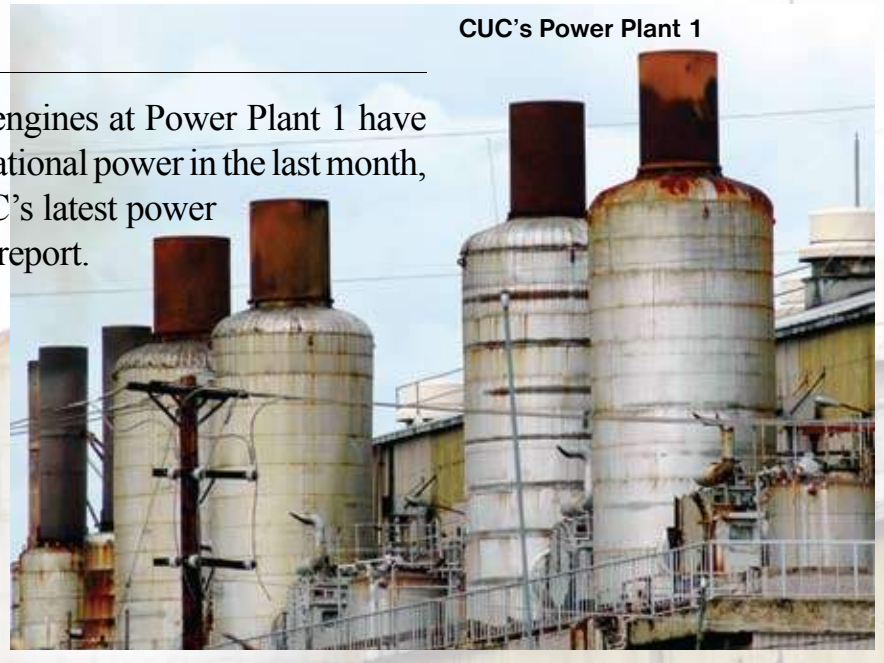
All but one of the engines at Power Plant 1 have decreased in operational power in the last month, according to CUC's latest power generation status report.

Of the three engines that are working in Power Plant 1, only engine number 3 has remained steady in the last month with 5 megawatts of power. The engine is designed to produce 7.3 watts.

Engines 6 and 8 have both decreased. Engine 6 has decreased from 5.2 MW last month to 5 MW this month, according to the report. The engine is designed for 13 MW.

Engine number 8, which was oper-

See ONLY on Page 4



CUC's Power Plant 1

Fitial opens up in video statement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday released a video statement where he talks for the first time about the indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, the possible end of daily outages,

See FITIAL on Page 4

Current status of CUC's power engines

POWER PLANT I

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 1

Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Under maintenance since Nov. 12, 2006. Crankshaft replacement by MAN. Awaiting additional mechanical parts.

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 2

Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 5.0
Remarks: Operational (JCW High Temperature Alarm)

DIESEL ENGINE NO.3

Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 5.0
Remarks: Operational (JCW High Temperature Alarm)

DIESEL ENGINE NO.4

Design MW: 7.3
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Down since July 16, 2005, due to crankpin seizure

TOTAL: DESIGN MW: 81.2 AVAILABLE MW: 15.0 **Remarks:** Terminated DCM contract involved the rehabilitation of seven out of eight units

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 5

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Down since April 12, 2008. Replacement valves, injector, liner and cylinder is required.

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 6

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 5.0
Remarks: Operational (JCW High Temperature Alarm)

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 7

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Alternator repair by CISCO, ongoing. Foundation repair completed by MHI. DCM work on the mechanical overhaul of engine and auxiliaries, terminated July 10, 2008.

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 8

Design MW: 13.0
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Down at 1:50pm yesterday afternoon, as CUC decided to move the JCW motor to Unit No. 6 due to less generating output compared to Unit No. 6.

See CURRENT on Page 4

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

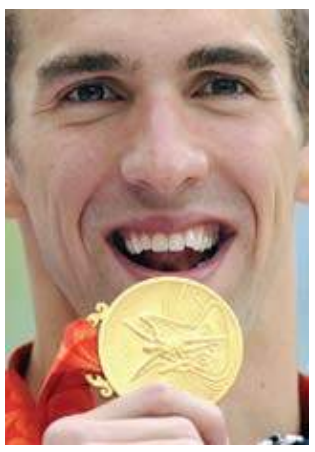
This week's poll:
Do you agree with the governor's reasons in his decision to declare a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Dam Breaks
Days of heavy rains around the Grand Canyon created flooding that breached an earthen dam.

NATION...Page 15



Phelps the Great
A Superman in a Speedo has redefined Greatness. Winningest Olympian. Not just the best. But The Best. Ever.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Local

Suspended Island Medical resumes operations

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A medical clinic in Susupe that is under suspension has been given a chance to re-open and provide services to the public while it is being ordered to satisfactorily complete pre-conditions set by the Department of Public Health.

This is by virtue of an "Agreement to Stay Suspension of Sanitary Permit" entered into between the department and Micronesia Health Corp., which does business as Island Medical Center.

Although the agreement was signed on June 27, 2008, IMC decided to delay its re-opening and only resumed operations on Aug. 5.

MHC president Tony Glad said they've been closed since February and are glad to be back and follow the compliance requirements set by DPH.

"We're really looking forward to giving quality service to the public. We could not re-open right away because we have to make some renovations of the clinic and that our old staff like nurses went home and we waited for the new ones to settle down and complete their requirements," Glad said.

He provided the *Saipan Tribune* a copy of the agreement with the advice of his legal counsel.

The agreement was signed by Glad, IMC's legal counsel Colin M. Thomson, DPH's Public Health Administration chief John M. Tagabuel and Assistant Attorney General A. Alexander Gorman.

The agreement stated that DPH shall stay its order to close the clinic and suspend its sanitary permit but reserves the right to re-instate those orders in its sole discretion for reasonable cause.

This would include the clinic's non-compliance with the terms of the agreement or for any further violations that relate to the facts and circumstances that led to the suspension of its permit on March 4, 2008, "at which time, it [stay order] shall be automatically terminated."

The agreement also stated that IMC may re-open its medical clinic and serve the community, pending full satisfactory completion of the pre-conditions and criteria set by the DPH.

However, during the time period of the agreement, "IMC may not conduct health certificate examinations for food handlers or for CNMI Immigration purposes, or operate its laboratory, unless and until a future agreement of the parties is entered into and executed for these specific purposes or the sanitary permit is reinstated."

Both parties have agreed that IMC's petition for judicial review of Agency Decision filed in the Supreme Court on April 18 shall be held in abeyance for the duration of the agreement.

It further said that in the event IMC pursues its court action in any way prior to termination, the agreement should be automatically terminated.

MARINE MONUMENT PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE for the Week of August 18, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:00pm	5:00pm	6:00pm
Concept Overview	Economic Study	Concept Overview

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.

We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
This schedule will rotate weekly and presentations will be added.
Schedules will be noticed weekly on Tuesdays.
If you need more information please call us at 234-2665.

FLOWER OFFERING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Buddhist priest Shorin Shaku offers a flower, together with other visiting Japanese businessmen and women, as a tribute to all the victims of World War II during a ceremony organized by Mariana Blue Corporation at the Japanese Peace Memorial near the Last Command Post in Marpi last week.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Thursday, August 21, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Flash Reports – July 2008
  - APAFS Conference
- Loan Administrator Reports
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - Home Loan Program Matters
  - APLE 501
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – June 2008

III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters

IV OLD BUSINESS
- Tinian Public Market

V NEW BUSINESS
- Employment/Independent Contracts
- FY 2008-2008 Independent Audit RFP
- IFEBP: International & Emerging Markets

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezones)

We ask your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Maps, sheets 14 (Kagman), 19 (Chalan Kiya), 23 (Fina Sisu), 26 (As Lito), and 27 (Koblerville).

A public hearing will be held:

Date:	Tuesday, September 23, 2008
Time:	6:00 pm
Place:	Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at

Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

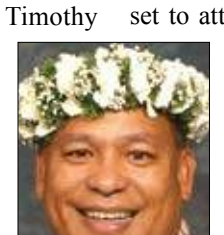
Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:00 pm, Wednesday, September 24, 2008. Send written comments via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9663. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. /s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chair.

Santos resigns, Villagomez business as usual

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

James A. Santos resigned yesterday as Commerce Secretary, while it was business-as-usual for Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez.


Villagomez

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* that Santos voluntarily resigned yesterday, Monday.

"The reason is because of the situation—the federal indictment. I think he feels that he's going to be a distraction on the administration," Reyes said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial tapped Deputy Commerce Secretary Michael Ada as the new Commerce chief.

Villagomez reported to his office yesterday at 8am. He left at 11:30am, according to Lt. Governor's legal counsel Teresa K. Kim.

Kim said Villagomez was set to attend a personal meeting at 1pm yesterday, then have an official meeting.

Villagomez, Santos, his wife Joaquina Villagomez Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted on charges of allegedly conspiring to bilk CMMI and U.S. governments out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

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DPS: No problems for officers at intersections

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Police Division director Lawrence Camacho said officers responded well to power outages Sunday, the first day the department stationed officers at four intersections without power.

"We handled it pretty good. We're always busy. All the officers picked up the slack," Camacho said.

Officers were dispatched to the intersection at Garapan and Middle Road near the Happy Market; the intersection on Middle Road near the Commonwealth Hospital Center; the intersection near the Microl Corp. in San Jose; and the intersection near Chalan Kiya Village and the Mobil Station.

Acting DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela said he decided to station officers at the intersections after the public began contacting the department.

Lawrence said officers worked with the planned outage schedule provided by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for Sunday.

The schedule was fairly accurate, he said.

"Give or take five to six minutes, guys went out to traffic lights as per their faxed schedule," Camacho added.

It'll continue to be difficult for the department to send officers out to the intersections, he said. Officers will continue to patrol intersections until the new Aggreko generators provide 24-hour power, hopefully starting Sept. 16.

"It's tough," Camacho said. "We're minimized. We're just covering. I always tell them to just hang tight."

Officers will not be sent out at night or when it is raining because it is too dangerous, Tudela said.

"We value the officer's life first and foremost," he added.

When no officer is present, motorists need to follow basic laws and extend courtesy to other drivers, Tudela said.

The first vehicle to stop at the intersection has the right of way, Tudela said, and when two cars arrive at the same time, the car on the right goes first.

DPS will soon be publishing information on the four-way stop rule, Tudela said.

"We're going to have that out as soon as possible, to educate the public on the rule of the four-way stop," he said.

Missing man's car found in Marpi

Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Division discovered and impounded a car Saturday that was owned by a currently missing Filipino man.

Alex Matubis' blue Toyota pickup truck with white doors was found near the Kalabera Caves in Marpi around 11:30am Saturday, officials said. Detectives searched the area after receiving tips from callers who spotted the vehicle.

Detectives got a tip about the car Friday. They were unable to locate the vehicle until Saturday. Detectives also conducted a search on the vehicle and a sweep around the area but were unable to find traces of the victim, according to officials.

Police impounded the vehicle. The case is currently under investigation.

Matubis, a drafter and cartographer, arrived on Saipan Monday, July 28, after conducting work on Tinian. According to investigators, a witness last saw him at 10:30am the same day when he was dropped off at his residence in Garapan.

Matubis, 47, was reported missing to DPS Thursday, July 30.

Anybody with information about Matubis is asked to contact the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 664-9042/9047. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

Human trafficking focus of Crime Stoppers conference

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of Crime Stopper CNMI chapter recently returned from an annual conference where human trafficking was a focus point.

During the conference held in Des Moines, Iowa, James Arenovski learned about the UK-based anti-human trafficking program Blue Blindfold.

"No one wants to admit we have [human trafficking] in our backyard," he said.

With Blue Blindfold, trafficking victims around the world will know where to turn to in order to get help, Arenovski said.

He said many victims don't have confidence in their home country's police departments so they are afraid to speak up. But with Blue Blindfold they will know where to seek help.

Like the Red Cross, the organization wants to create a logo that people will instantly recognize and could be used around the world.

Arenovski said a former trafficking victim spoke at the conference about his experience. The man, originally from Africa, believed he was going to move to the United States to travel around the country and sing in a church group. He did end up singing, but once he arrived he was locked in a barracks and forced to perform eight shows a day for two years, before a member of the church congregation stepped in and helped him leave the group.

After the man came to the States on a work visa, his passport was taken from him, Arenovski said.

"They had no one to talk to," he said.

With Blue Blindfold, victims in similar situations can turn to the organization for help, Arenovski said.

He said he does not want to step on the toes of other anti-human trafficking groups but rather wants to "dovetail" with them.

"It's important to make sure this is an opportunity for us to take one small piece and work with it," he said.

Members of the U.S. Marshal's and the European and Russian Interpol chapters took part in the conference.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

PTI would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on August 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before August 20th.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION PTI CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

Per an earlier announcement, PTI is no longer mailing out past due notices as of 11/01/06.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than August 20th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4PTI (4784)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

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Torres: No to special judge for rejected judges, justices

Rep. Stanley T. Torres yesterday filed a bill that prohibits a former judge or justice who is rejected during a retention election from serving as special judge.

Torres said the purpose of his legislation is to disallow the practice of appointing special judges who have not been retained as a result of the Commonwealth retention election.

Under the proposed measure, the governor is given authority to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, one or more special judges to be available to serve temporarily in the Superior Court or the Supreme Court.

The governor is given discretion to determine the number of special judges to be appointed, after consultation with the chief justice.

Virginia Sablan-Onerheim and Timothy H. Bellas are the only judges rejected by majority voters during retention elections. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

the Government Accountability Office's report, and federalization litigation option.

The 12-minute video was provided to the media yesterday. It was supposed to be uploaded by the administration over the weekend to the popular video sharing website, YouTube.

The administration is still working on splitting the video since it is two minutes over the YouTube's 10-minute maximum per video broadcast requirement. Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday the video may be uploaded anytime this week as soon as they're done working on it.

In the video, Fitial took off with a brief discussion on the indictment of Villagomez and his co-defendants, describing it as "a great personal disappointment" to him.

"I have great sympathy for the families of all those involved. I have appointed Mike Ada as the new Secretary of Commerce," said Fitial, reading from a prepared statement.

The chief executive expressed respect for the efforts of the federal law enforcement officials involved in the investigation of the case.

"I look forward to a speedy resolution of the matter in court," he said.

CUC updates

On the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s problems, the governor said that when he asked Tony Muña to take charge of the utility agency, Muña "inherited a mess."

"I have confidence in his ability to look at the current problems and address them in an orderly and thoughtful manner," he said.

Fitial said there are no quick fixes as the problems with CUC have been accumulating over the years.

"Now my administration bears the brunt of the outages, the high bills, and the difficult repairs that are necessary," he said.

The governor then shifted to the "good news," disclosing that he just met with representatives of Aggreko International, which is under contract to supply 15 megawatt power to Saipan.

The Aggreko representatives, Fitial said, advised him that the equipment would be ready by Sept. 16, 2008.

Fitial and Muna expect the additional capacity will enable the island to meet peak load demands on CUC, resulting in outages coming to an end next month.

The chief executive also mentioned his talks with Senate President Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios about the two officials' recent trip to Washington.

He said he appreciates the personal effort that Reyes and Palacios made to present the CNMI's energy needs to a wide range of federal officials.

"Let me be clear on one point here: The Legislature and my administration speak with a single voice regarding the needs of our people. We are hopeful that the Interior Department will be able to help us," Fitial said.

In addition, the governor said, he had discussed the matter with U.S. Navy Rear Admiral William D. French, who is the commander of the Naval Forces Marianas.

He said French has offered to provide Navy expertise to help the CNMI in evaluating and addressing its energy needs.

GAO report

Fitial said he received a draft of the GAO report in June and was very disappointed with its analysis and conclusions.

He said he was unable to discuss the report in public because GAO asked them not to do so until the report was released in its final version on Aug. 4.

Fitial reiterated his administration's position that they do not object to the application of the federalization immigration laws aimed at protecting the nation's borders and national security.

'We welcome that. But we do object to the provisions of the law that seek to eliminate over time all foreign workers in our community who cannot meet the very restricted requirements of H visas under federal law," he said.

Fitial cited that there are about 18,000 guest workers in the CNMI or about two-thirds of the total workforce.

He said only a small percentage of these workers is likely to qualify for H visas, while the others will be allowed to remain in the CNMI only if federal officials give special CNMI-only permits to individual employers allowing them to hire foreign workers.

Fitial pointed out that the law requires that the number of these special permits be reduced to zero by the end of 2014, unless the U.S. Labor Secretary grants an extension of the so-called transition period.

He said Congress clearly did not listen when he and others testified when the law was being considered in Congress that reductions of foreign workers would severely damage the CNMI's economy.

"Although GAO denies doing so, its report confirms our worst expectations regarding the damage we can expect if this law is implemented as written," he said.

The report, Fitial said, refers to a well-respected book on economics authored by the present chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Ben Bernanke.

Bernanke's book states that a 10 percent reduction in the number of workers in the U.S. might be expected to cause a 7 percent decline in the economy.

"So, for the Commonwealth, a 60-percent reduction in our workforce—over whatever time period—would result in a 42 percent decline in our economy," Fitial noted.

The governor said investors do not understand why the federal government would destroy a workforce that serves the economy well.

"Why would they make the situation so uncertain and so unwelcoming for foreign investors and foreign workers?" Fitial asked.

He questioned why the federal government would deny visa waivers to tourists from Korea, Russia, or China who want to buy condominiums or timeshares in the CNMI.

"Frankly, I have difficulty in answering these questions," the governor said.

He said he would be meeting with the Legislature next week to review the options for dealing with the situation.

Fitial hinted that litigation may be the only alternative to challenging the labor provisions of the new federal law.

ONLY

From Page 1

eating at 5 megawatts last month, was shutdown Sunday in order to move the motor to engine 6.

Engine number 1 has been under maintenance since Nov. 12, 2006, while engine number 4 has been down since July 16, 2005, due to a crankpin seizure. Engine 5 has been down since April 12, 2008, because the valves injector, liner and cylinder need to be replaced. Engine 7 is undergoing alternator repair.

Altogether, Power Plant 1 is designed to produce 81.2 megawatts of power, but is only coming up with 15 megawatts.

All six engines are down at Power Plant 2. Engines 2, 3 and 4 are down and are waiting for parts and maintenance. Engine 1 is down due to abnormal sound from the turbocharger. Engine 5 was also stopped July 16 because of abnormal sounds from the turbocharger. Engine 6 is undergoing an adjustment of the fuel injection system.

Nine of the 10 engines at privately operated Power Plant 4 are operational. Of the 20 megawatts that Power Plant 4 is designed for, 14.6 megawatts is currently available.

The three plants are capable of 116.2 megawatts of power, but only 29.6 megawatts are currently available, according to the report.

CURRENT From Page 1

POWER PLANT II

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 1

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Down, abnormal sound from turbocharger

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 2

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Waiting for ordered parts/ maintenance

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 3

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Waiting for ordered parts/ maintenance

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 4

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Waiting for ordered parts/ maintenance

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 5

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Stopped at 3am on July 16, 2008, due to abnormal sound at turbocharger

POWER PLANT IV

TOTAL:
Design MW: 20.0
Available MW: 14.6

Total CUC installed capacity: 116.2 MW
Total CUC available power: 29.6 MW
Peak load noted in April: 14.6 MW
Deficit in power supply: 11.4MW*

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 6

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Adjustment of fuel injection system

TOTAL:
Design MW: 15.0
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Power Plant II was under rehabilitation by CISCO.

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 1

Design MW: 3.5
Available MW: 0.0
Remarks: Decommissioned

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 2

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 3

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 4

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 5

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 6

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 7

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 8

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 9

Design MW: 1.0
Available MW: 0.9
Remarks: Operational

DIESEL ENGINE NO. 10

Design MW: 2.5
Available MW: 2.2
Remarks: Operational

Note: *Negative indicates the potential of loadshedding. Data updated on a monthly basis

Source: Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Seminars boost NMC's accreditation efforts

To further channel efforts toward addressing its show cause status, the Northern Marianas College—in an unprecedented move—dedicated an entire week of professional development days to topics and sessions that dealt directly with meeting accreditation requirements.

A workshop featuring a presentation about academic advising kicked off the week of Aug. 11 -15 and was followed by a PowerCAMPUS training conducted by the Office of Admissions and Records.

PowerCAMPUS is the comprehensive student information software that better enables the college to track and report student achievement data, which is required for accreditation purposes. The software also streamlines the registration process, accelerates the billing portion of registration, simplifies the preparation of lengthy financial reports, and shortens the turnaround time for the processing of transcripts.

Students, staff, and faculty assembled later on the first day for a presentation by NMC's Program Review and Outcomes Assessment Committee members who provided an overview of the upcoming PDD sessions for the remainder of the week. They also gave an update of the activities and accomplishments that occurred over the last several months and some preliminary feedback on the PROAC composite reports.

The first day concluded with a presentation from the Human Resources Office, whose staff elaborated on instructions for the timely preparation and submission of faculty and staff evaluations. The evaluations are critical to assessing staff and faculty performance as well as institutional capacity.

On Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008, staff members from individual programs met their respective dyads (peer reviewers) to discuss the feedback they received from PROAC regarding their Form 1 and 2 documents. The Form 1 document explains how a program's mission statement, intended program/service outcomes, means of assessment and success criteria, summary of data collected, and the use of results to improve delivery of services are linked. The Form 2 document provides information and analysis of a program's history, specific services/activities, data/evidence used for planning and assessment purposes, human, physical, and technology resources, and recommendations for improvement.

Wednesday and Thursday were set aside to provide program staff with additional assistance and guidance with their Forms 1 and 2 in preparation for the next assessment and program review cycle, which begins in September 2008. Customized mini-workshops were designed and made available to address the following topics, which correspond to the different sections that comprise Forms 1 and 2:

- History of Program and Program Advisory Council
- Program Mission
- Program Student Learning Outcomes/Administrative Unit Outcome and Human Resources
- Student Achievement Data
- Physical Resources
- Technological Resources
- Mapping (General Education, Program, and Course)
- Program Recommendations

Later that Thursday evening, faculty and staff members met with Donna Lewis of Key Trio to discuss student learning outcomes to program courses using the Introduce, Reinforce, and Emphasize (IRE) exercise. Lewis had also met with various staff earlier in the day to discuss program review matters.

The last day of NMC's professional development week culminated with an assembly of students, faculty and staff to wrap up the week and discuss the PROA Strategic Plan schedule and the Compliance Action Plan (CAP). In her remarks, Donna Lewis commended the College for accomplishing a tremendous amount of work in such a short timeframe. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Northern Marianas College TRiO Programs participate in a professional development session facilitated by Office of Institutional Effectiveness Director Wil Castro, not in photo.

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Also available:
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NO Push-To-Talk
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3,000 cellular minutes · UNLIMITED Push-To-Talk · FREE 180 local SMS (No sharing) · Can be a stand alone plan or used with iShare Plans (May be a mix of the iShare Plans)
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Share cell mins. fr the 3,000 Minute Plan · FREE 60 local SMS (No sharing)
Preferred rates & other conditions for 3,000 Minute Plan & iShare Plans:
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Bill seeks to rehire 12 alien workers for CUC

'Termination of guest workers caused dramatic impact on overall operation at power plants'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero yesterday introduced a bill that seeks to hire again at least 12 alien workers to address the severe manpower shortage at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power generation division.

This developed as power officials informed CUC executive director Antonio Muna that the removal of the 20 alien workers in September 2007 dramatically impacted the overall operation of the power generation division.

"Units are breaking down because of the lack of personnel to address preventive maintenance inspection and proper operational supervision, including the plant auxiliary systems, not to mention the reverse osmosis system for the power cooling system and the incinerator area," according to the report.

The report was signed by plant manager Almondo S. Santos, plant general managing engineer Venugopal Prabhakara and five other officials.

The officials pointed out that the manpower shortage has also affected staff morale to the point of exhaustion, such that no one wants to report for work anymore on weekends and during emergency calls.

Muna tagged along some power plant officials and crew members to the House's chamber where the legislation was discussed yesterday afternoon.

Muna explained to lawmakers the problems plaguing the power plants, including the manpower shortage, blackouts, and condition of power engines.

When Saipan Tribune left the House's session, Prabhakara, using power engine tools, was still demonstrating to lawmakers the problems with the engines.

The officials stated that they had emphasized in the past that CUC must retain some of the nonresident staff on direct hire to train the local workforce, since majority of these employees have the educational background, extensive training and experience on the units, which is required when training a new local workforce.

"Again, this request was not considered or implemented," the officials stressed.

In summary, the officials said, the action of terminating the services of the alien workers "did not do any good for CUC or the Saipan consumers."

CUC is currently unable to employ foreign national workers to fill certain essential positions pursuant to restrictions in Public Law 15-108.

At present, CUC could not find qualified permanent residents or citizen employees to fill essential positions.

Vice Speaker Deleon Guerrero stated in his bill that extending the exemption for hiring alien workers within the government is necessary to ensure the delivery of uninterrupted power, water, and wastewater services to the CNMI.

"Accordingly, the purpose of this legislation is to allow CUC to hire up to 12 foreign national workers to fill technical and professional positions at CUC and to extend such exemption to year 2010," Deleon Guerrero said.

Under the proposed measure, CUC may contract with manpower services or directly hire power plant mechanics and utility technicians, provided that the hiring shall not exceed 12 employees.

Deleon Guerrero earlier told Saipan Tribune that the law that caused CUC not to renew the contracts of long-time nonresident workers drastically cut down the number of mechanics, assistants, and technicians at the Power Plant 1 alone from 42 down to 24 or 26.

He noted that the power plant situation worsened as the manpower shortage was compounded by power engine problems.

"Their staff [at Power Plant 1] are basically getting burned out," Deleon Guerrero said. "When you lack manpower, you put people on overtime and that's a cost in itself."

In 2005, then governor Juan N. Babauta signed bills into law extending the employment of over a hundred nonresident workers in some government offices, including at CUC, for one to five years.

The measure allowed CUC to keep its nonresident engineers and power plant mechanics for two more years or until Sept. 30, 2007.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS *Mustin* visits Saipan

The USS *Mustin*, a 509-foot guided missile destroyer with over 350 officers and crew, arrived Monday morning, Aug. 18 and departs the morning of Friday, Aug. 22.

Hard Rock Cafe Saipan will host the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's reception for the officers and crew of the USS *Mustin* tomorrow, Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 6pm. There will be complimentary light food refreshments and a no-host bar.

"Please join us in welcoming the sailors at the reception and bring along a few extra bucks to buy a drink or two for our guests. There are over 350 crewmembers, so we expect a sizable contingent from the ship at the reception," the Chamber said in a statement. ***(PR)***

'Meet John Davis' community meetings

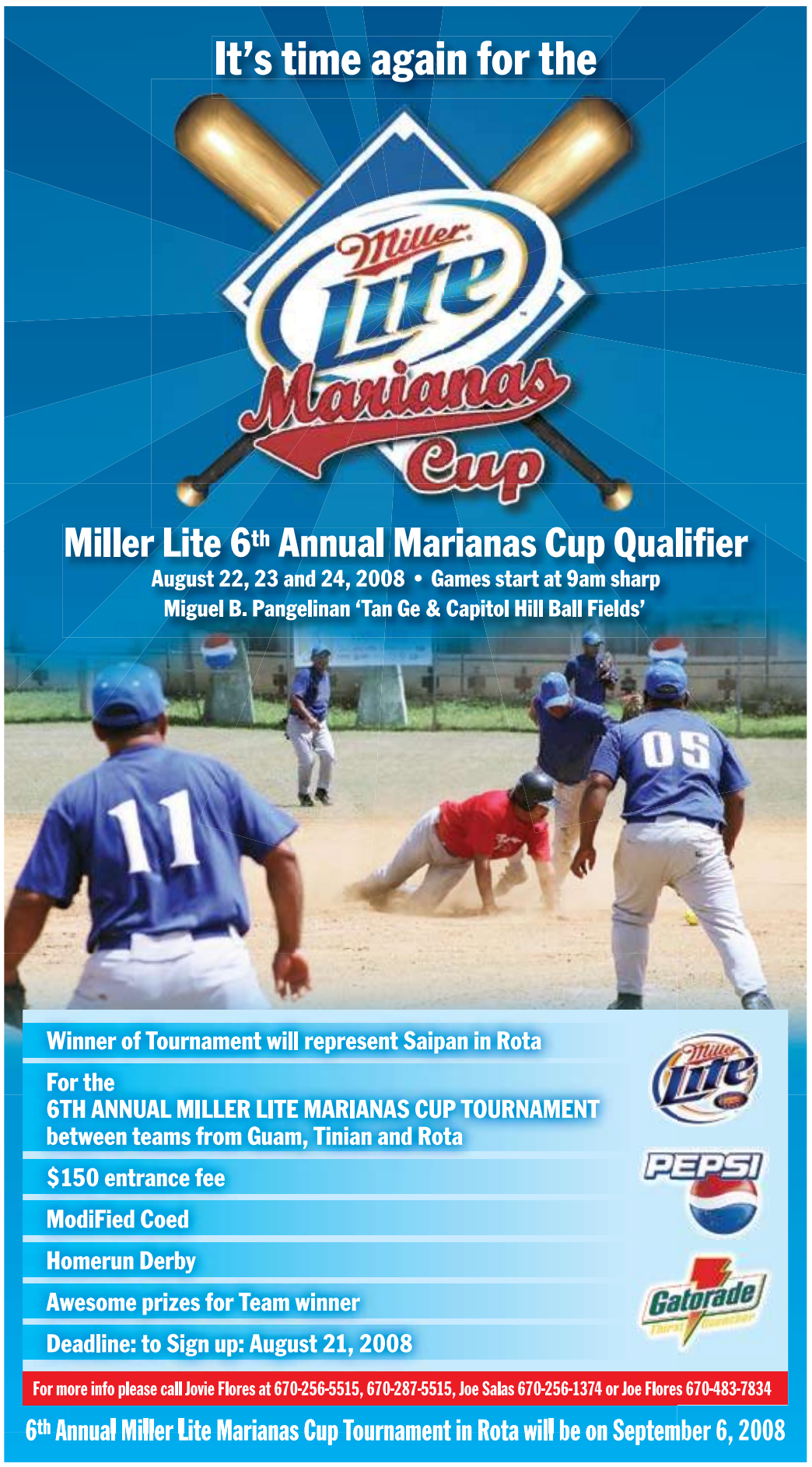
Interested persons are invited to meet with John H. Davis Jr., candidate for the position of Delegate to the U.S. Congress, and express their views and perspective on the election at community meetings to be held as follows:

- Aug. 19, 5-6pm, San Antonio Youth Center
- Aug. 20, 5-6pm, Kobler Youth Center
- Aug. 25, 5-6pm, Tanapag Youth Center
- Aug. 26, 5-6pm, Gualo Rai Youth Center

NMC Alumni general membership meeting

There will be a general membership meeting of all NMC alumni at the Hard Rock Café Private Room on Aug. 21, 2008 (Thursday) at 6:30pm. All NMC alumni are invited to attend. We will be signing up alumni, selecting the official NMC alumni logo, presenting alumni ID card benefits, and more.

Your attendance will be greatly appreciated in this historic revitalization of the NMC Alumni Association. Come and get re-acquainted with former classmates. ***(PR)***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The Marianas Visitors Authority is seeking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

	POSITION:	CLOSING DATE:
JVA#08-001	Chief Accountant	Until Filled
JVA#08-003	Marketing Specialist (Saipan)	August 29, 2008
JVA#08-004	Marketing Specialist (Tinian)	August 29, 2008
JVA#08-004	Marketing Manager	August 29, 2008

HOW TO APPLY

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or by emailing personnel@mymarianas.com for employment application forms. All applicants must submit an MVA employment application plus other required documents in order to be considered for any of the positions listed above. All applications should be submitted to the MVA office no later than the closing date of the announcement.

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Kagman student attends science, math conference

Kagman High School student Terrence Duenas, who is part of a bridge program at the Northern Marianas College, recently participated in an off-island conference aimed at advancing students' success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Duenas traveled to Hawaii last Thursday to represent the CNMI in the Second Annual Islands of Opportunity Alliance–Louise Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Conference.

The LSAMP program is aimed at increasing the quality and quantity of students successfully completing science, technology, engineering and mathematics bachelor degree programs. It also seeks to increase the number of students interested in, academically qualified for and transition into programs of graduate study.

"I feel very lucky to have been selected to participate in this program," said Duenas before his departure to Hawaii. "I have always been interested in a career in Engineering so the conference will help me with achieving that goal."

Although an incoming senior at Kagman High School, Duenas had been taking various classes at NMC to prepare for the trip to Hawaii, where students from Hawaii, American Samoa, Palau, and the Marshall Islands joined him.

The conference included several activities designed to enhance communication and strengthen inter-campus and inter-student relationships. Further, it showcased cutting edge student research activities and provided student attendees information on LSAMP programs and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities at the IOA-LSAMP four-year institutions, and provided information about LSAMP Bridge to the Doctorate programs. The conference ended with a cultural activity on Saturday night.

"Terence's participation in this highly-prestigious program underscores his intellect and dedication to working and studying hard. We're all very proud of him," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "His selection is also testament to the quality of the academic programs and faculty we have at NMC."

The conference was hosted by the IOA-LSAMP program and the Native Hawaiian Science and Engineering Mentorship Program at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, from August 14-16. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman High School student Terrence Duenas, center, poses with NMC's math and science instructor Glenn Keaton and college president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. Duenas was selected to participate in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics conference in Hawaii.

Worsening weather condition seen

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The latest report released yesterday by the Emergency Management Office predicts worsening weather condition in the CNMI in the next few days due to the influence of Tropical Storm Nuri.

According to the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, Nuri is located about 800 miles west of the Marianas, moving at 17mph, with maximum sustained winds of 45mph.

Yesterday, the CNMI and Guam experienced scattered showers and slight chance of thunderstorms, with southeast winds of 10 to 15 miles per hour and highs around 86.

Last night was cloudy with isolated shower and a slight chance of thunderstorms as well as variable winds and lows around 76.

Today's weather condition, however, is partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms with light and variable winds and lows around 76 and highs of 87.

These conditions are expected to happen until the end of this week.

Lighter winds are expected today in the Marianas waters (up to 40 nautical miles) allowing thunderstorms to form.

The Weather Service report warned that a west swell will cause combined seas to build on Wednesday.

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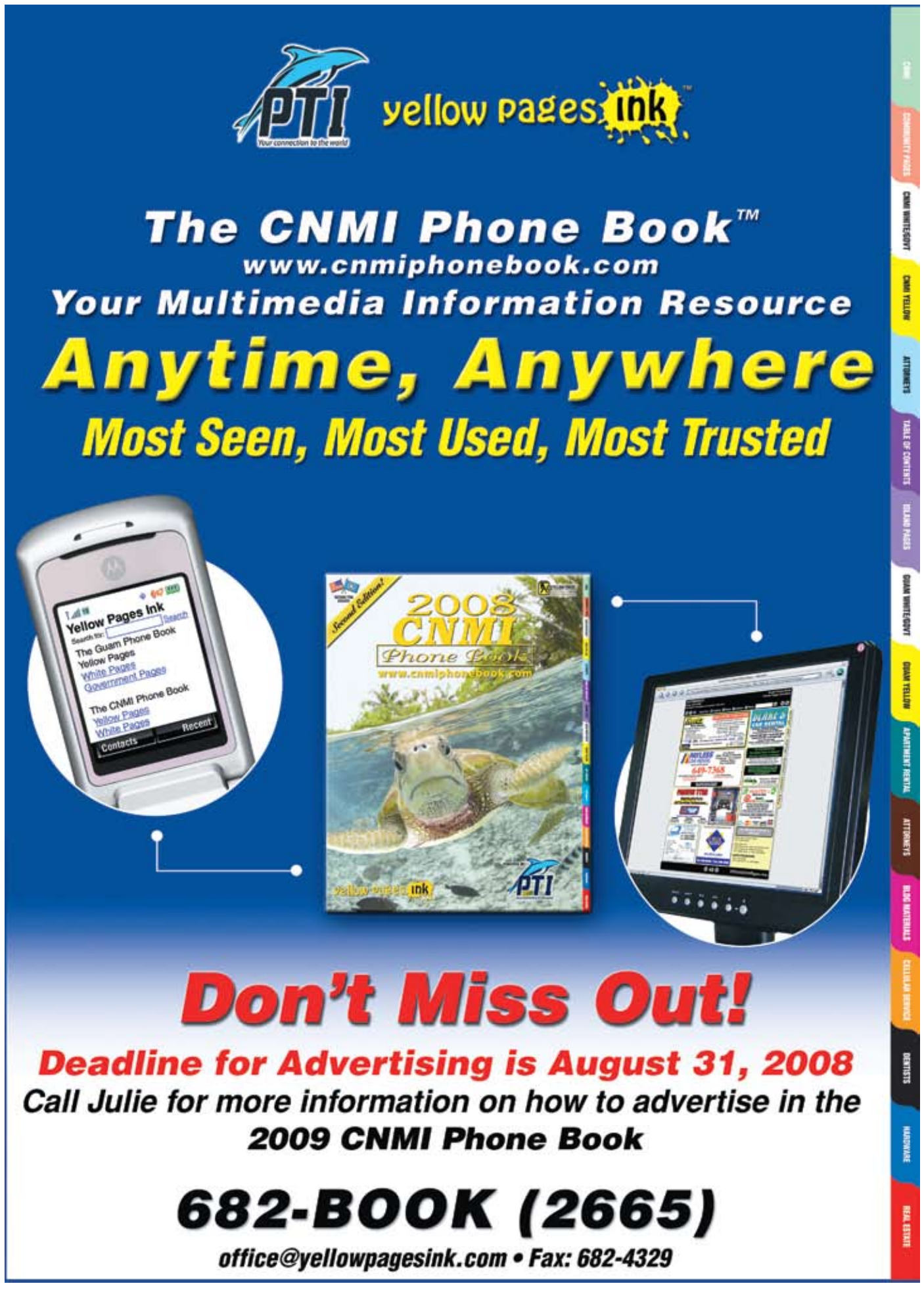
/s/ MICHAEL PAI
Acting, Public Auditor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S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Hawaii palace takeover leader couldn't find throne

HONOLULU (AP)—The leader of a Hawaiian pro-sovereignty group that broke into a historic palace once home to royalty said he planned to chain himself to the throne but couldn't find it because he had never been in the palace before.

But palace officials said three locks, including those securing the throne room, were damaged. No artifacts were damaged or stolen, but the group broke into a barracks building and raised a flag on the flagpole, officials said.

Police arrested 23 people during the stunt, in which members of the Kingdom of Hawaii locked the gates to the Iolani Palace on Friday.

The leader, 67-year-old James Kimo Akahi of Haiku, claims he is the rightful king of the islands. He told reporters Saturday that he had never been in the palace before Friday and didn't know where the throne was kept.

The palace will remain closed indefinitely while curators assess damage. The state Department of Land and Natural Resources will decide when the palace can reopen, said Ruth Limtiaco, president of the Limtiaco Co., a public relations firm for the Friends of Iolani Palace.

During the takeover attempt, eight employees locked themselves in the palace and a nearby administrative building.

Several Native Hawaiian organizations have rival claims to sovereignty over the islands. Some supporters of sovereignty condemned Akahi's actions.

"That's atrocious, for him trying to sit on the throne at Iolani Palace," said Charles Kauluwehi Maxwell Sr., a priest and longtime Hawaiian activist. "James Akahi is not the king of Hawaii."

Another group calling itself the Hawaiian Kingdom Government occupied the palace grounds April 30 and has been getting permits to set up there each week since then. That group claims to be operating a functioning government from the grounds.

The 23 people arrested Friday face charges of criminal trespassing and burglary. State officers climbed over the fence a couple of hours after the takeover began.

Hawaiian activists have long used the site for protests against U.S. control of the islands. Legislation in the U.S. Senate would set up a Native Hawaiian governing entity similar to those of American Indians that could negotiate with state and federal governments over control of natural resources, lands and assets.

The ornate palace is operated as a museum of Hawaiian royalty. King Kalakaua built it in 1882, and it also served as the residence for his sister and successor, Queen Liliuokalani, the islands' last ruling monarch. Liliuokalani was later imprisoned in the palace after the monarchy fell.

Plant of Pohnpei Coconut Products goes up in flames

Second fire at uninsured factory

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (Kaselehlie Press/PIR)—Kadalino Sam heard the news just after midnight on Wednesday, the early morning hours of July 24. A neighbor called him to tell him that the Pohnpei Coconut Products plant in Madolenihmw was ablaze. Sam, a share holder in Pohnpei Coconut Products Incorporated and his neighbors went to work on the fire with a garden hose while waiting for the Fire Department to arrive.

Peterson Sam, Kadalino's son said that the fire truck arrived at approximately 2am. When the truck left to refill its water tank locals kept watch over the fire with the one garden hose available to them.

By the time the long night was over, the plant had burned down for the second time since the plant opened in 1979. Kadalino said that it burned once before in the mid-'80s. The company has no fire insurance.

He estimated that 70 to 80 percent of the plant equipment was lost to the fire.

He said that the refinery equipment that produces coconut oil used to power diesel engines didn't seem to be damaged. PCPI had been refining the oil and selling at a per gallon price that is significantly lower than the per gallon price of diesel fuel.

The plant burned down once before in the 1980's. They recovered then and Kadalino Sam who is one of the founders of the corporation said that the company can be revived once again.

According to PCPI's website (www.pohnpeicoconut.com) the company began during the Trust Territory days in 1974 when the Congress of Micronesia in Saipan gave Pohnpei Agricultural and Trade School (PATS) a $9,000 appropriation to explore development of coconut products. In 1974, the world market price for copra was 3 cents a pound. There was little economic incentive for farmers to grow and harvest coconuts at that price.

In 1979, with the support of the FSM and Pohnpei State governments as well as several PATS benefactors, a refinery plant and a soap plant were purchased and built in Madolenihmw, Pohnpei.

By 1989 both PCPI and the FSM Government felt that it was time to continue operations on its own and the company was incorporated on November 16 of that year.

Chaudhry to resign as Fiji finance chief

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Interim Finance Minister Mahendra Chaudhry, interim Labor Minister Lekh Ram Vayeshnoi and interim Tourism and Communications Minister Tom Ricketts are to resign from the interim Government tomorrow.

This follows a decision by the Fiji Labor Party's National Council in Nadi today.

The three interim ministers are expected to hand in their resignations tomorrow.

This development ends recent speculation about Chaudhry's future in the interim Cabinet.

The FLP President Jokapeci Koroi said in a statement after the meeting that "it was in the best interests of the party to disengage from the interim Government to allow it to effectively engage with the population with respect to the draft People's Charter as well as prepare for the next general election".

The National Council also noted that work on the draft Charter was now completed.

"The Party should concentrate on consultation on the Charter and strengthen its constituency structures," she said. "The party joined the interim Government on the condition that executive authority would be returned to the President in order to assist in the process of returning Fiji to parliamentary democracy through general elections. An important consideration for the FLP becoming a part of the Interim Government was to save Fiji from imminent financial and economic collapse,as well as to reform Fiji's system of governance, rid it of corruption and racial discrimination, and to promote national unity."

Chaudhry told the media that immediately after the decision was made he called interim Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama but left a message on his mobile phone because the PM did not take the call.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Tonga crown prince named envoy to Australia

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Crown Prince of Tonga, Tupouto'a Lavaka, is today due to start his job as Tonga's first High Commissioner to Australia. The Crown Prince has served in different roles, including as prime minister, foreign minister, defense minister and agriculture minister. His appointment was formally approved on July the 25th on the recommendation of Cabinet. Radio Tonga says he traveled to Canberra via China where he attended the opening of the Olympics in Beijing.

Kiribati seasonal workers sent home without pay

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—A New Zealand Pacific workers scheme is being investigated after dozens of seasonal workers from Kiribati were sent home with no pay. It's believed the workers went to Blenheim to fill a drastic labor shortage, but there are alleged claims of mistreatment by a contractor. The Pacific division of the New Zealand Labor Department which organized the scheme has also been accused of mismanagement. The Pacific News Service reports contractor Garry Maxwell-Smith only provided a three bedroom house to be shared among 22 workers, but he says the Kiribati people arrived ill prepared and were disrespectful, lazy and uneducated. The report says the Kiribati workers have been sent home with no money after just two months in New Zealand.

Samoa family seeks injunction against banishment

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A village elders decision in Samoa to banish a mother and her five children because of an alleged adultery linked to the killing of a man in June is being challenged in court. Fuatino Langkilde is seeking an interim injunction for her return to the village because, her lawyer said in court, the village land is a freehold property and allegations of adultery against her have not been proven. Her lawyer has also argued the mother and her children should not be punished because of the murder charge her husband faces. However the lawyer for the village said the council of elders held the right to decide who lived in their village. He said the village had a code of conduct which the woman had breached.

Marshalls students win Taiwan scholarships

MAJURO, Marshall Islands (Yokwe/PIR)—Republic of China (Taiwan) Ambassador Bruce J. D. Linghu awarded six Marshall Islands students full, five-year scholarships to Taiwan Universities this week. Since 2004, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan) has provided the Taiwan Scholarship to encourage outstanding international students, including students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to undertake degree programs in Taiwan. According to the ROC Embassy in Majuro, the scholarship program also aims "to promote knowledge, understanding and friendship between the peoples of ROC (Taiwan) and the RMI to jointly explore opportunities to increase academic and educational links." The six recipients will each receive a monthly stipend of about $970.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 19, 1999

3 federal officials in CNMI row subpoenaed

WASHINGTON—A festering partisan battle over governance of the Northern Mariana Islands erupted anew this week, as a House committee claimed it had unearthed evidence that a federal official with responsibility for the U.S. territory tried illegally to launch political attacks against top House Republicans. The House Resources Committee served subpoenas on Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt; David North, public affairs officer for Interior's Office of Insular Affairs; and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Takeover hearing pushed back

The U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee has delayed for a week the scheduled July 27 oversight hearing on the proposed federal takeover of CNMI in Washington D.C., rejecting an appeal by the business sector to hold it in September to coincide with the investigation by the House Resources Committee. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio confirmed Saturday the decision of the Senate Committee which was relayed to him by CNMI Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta. The local chief executive will fly today to the Federated States of Micronesia to attend the inaugural of FSM's new president.

Anti-prostitution drive launched

Responding to the federal government's concern about the alleged proliferation of sex trade in the CNMI, the local government has stepped up its anti-prostitution drive by launching an operation last week that yielded eight suspected pimps and prostitutes. Three women and five men, all natives of China, were arrested by policemen during a dawn raid on Friday, a government lawyer said.

August 19, 2000

Business gross revenue tax up 4.8%

Indicating a modest recovery of the Northern Marianas economy, the CNMI government reported substantial growth in business gross revenue tax collected during the first eight months of the Fiscal Year 2000 from last year's figures. Department of Finance records disclosed a 4.8 percent increase in revenues generated from business gross to $42.7 million during the period covering October 1999 to May 2000, from last year's $40.8 million.

House rejects changes to Omnibus bill

The proposed Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act heads into another round of review after the House of Representatives yesterday rejected amendments made by the Senate. Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, who sponsored the proposal under HB 12-39, said he will call immediately a bicameral conference meeting to iron out differences with the upper house.

PIA faces $3 million civil suit

Two Tinian residents are seeking payment of $1 million each from the Pacific Islands Aviation for alleged psychological trauma they have been experiencing since the PIA plane that took them to Guam crash landed in 1998. On top of this, Rosita C. Palacios and Carleen P. Mendiola are asking for punitive damages amounting to $1 million in a civil complaint they filed before the Superior Court through their lawyer Joshua A. Berger. They want the court to hold a jury trial on the island-municipality of Tinian.

August 19, 2001

Schools plan anti-abuse lessons

Reported cases of child sexual abuse at Oleai Elementary School served as an eye-opener, pushing school administrators to plan for anti-sexual abuse lessons for students this coming school year. School officials said students may have to be educated on the difference between a "good" and a "bad" touch so they will be able to detect abuse and report it to proper authorities.

Dilapidated treatment plant may be polluting the ocean

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation admitted that overflow of wastewater from the sewer system hooked to the Agingan treatment plant actually occurs. This happens when the sewer's pumping system fails to accommodate the volume of wastewater flowing through the sewer pipes. But the CUC also blamed some customers for the overflow. Some throw tissue papers, rags, wood, oil and even toys on their toilet, claimed CUC. The different kinds of trash clog the sewer lines and these go to the treatment facility.

APAFS to host its fifth seminar on Saipan

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is coming to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the fifth in a series of regional Institutional Funds Management Country Conferences, on Friday, Aug. 22, from 8am to 6pm, at the Azucena I & II of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Fiduciaries take the critical role of handling the vast majority of the world's investable wealth. The success or failure of investment fiduciaries will have a material impact on the financial health of any institutional fund and its beneficiaries. Cognizant of the fiduciaries' responsibilities, the APAFS aims to help define the details of a fiduciary's prudent investment process through the series of conferences in the region.

The Saipan conference with its focus on the theme, "Defining a Global Fiduciary Standard of Excellence," instructs anyone involved in the investments process such as trustees, committee members, advisors, attorneys and others on how they can improve fiduciary services, including:

■ The roles and responsibilities of an investment fiduciary.

■ The substantiated Prudent Practices that define the Global Fiduciary Standards of Excellence.

■ The benefits of having defined fiduciary Practices.

■ The process for assessing conformance to a Standard of Excellence.

The conference boasts presentations from recognized experts on the latest trends and best practices affecting institutional funds today.

AIF instructor Phillip Mendiola-Long, who holds the Accredited Investment Fiduciary designation, will lead the seminar in a four-part presentation titled, "The Prudent Process." The AIF designation is awarded through the successful completion of a course of study at the Center for Fiduciary Studies at the University of Pittsburg, Katz School of Business.

Don Clark, vice president, ASC Trust Corp. will present the "Update on Defined Contribution Retirement Plans in the CNMI."

Jason Miyashita, AIF, will moderate the panel discussion on "Domestic Capital Outlook." Panelists will include Jim Staub, senior VP, Atalanta Sosnoff Capital Management and Mark J. Heath, CFA senior VP, Metropolitan West Capital Management.

Plans for the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held on Oct. 9 &and 10 in Manila, the Philippines, will be presented as well.

The conference is the fifth in a series of country conferences to be held throughout the year by APAFS. The first event was held in Palau on April 22, Yap on June 4, Majuro on July 29 and Aug. 19 in Pohnpei, each boasting over 50 participants who received a certificate of completion at the end of each program.

The objective of the organization is to provide educational programs for members in the jurisdictions of Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM and Marshall Islands, expanding to other areas as opportunities arise. These country conferences are one of the primary goals of the association, to hold topic-specific conferences as requested by members in their jurisdiction.

APAFS is currently in the planning stages for Guam's country conference to be held Aug. 25, culminating in the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference to be held in Manila in October at the Renaissance Hotel, Makati.

Light breakfast will be served to start, as well as lunch. All participants will receive certificates of completion.

The association expects over 50 representatives from both the government and private sectors. Don't miss this opportunity to interact with the industry's experts and be in-the-know regarding the latest issues surrounding institutional fund management.

For more information about APAFS, the country conferences and the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference, you may directly access their website at www.apafs.org. ***(APAFS)***

APAFS *issues program for Manila conference*

The official Program Brochure of the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference, organized by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, is now available for viewing at *www.apafs.org*. The brochure features the full program details of the conference as well as speakers' profiles and sponsors' information. Printed copies will be distributed during the conference proper on Oct. 9 - 10, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel in Makati City, Manila.

This year's keynote speaker is legendary contrarian investor Dr. Marc Faber, editor and publisher of *The Gloom, Boom & Doom Report* (www.gloomboomdoom.com) and CEO and president of Marc Faber Limited. Aside from being the author of the Amazon bestseller *Tomorrow's Gold - Asia's Age of Discovery*, Dr. Faber is also a regular contributor to leading financial publications around the world and has provided market commentaries for Bloomberg News, Bloomberg TV and CNBC. Also among the conference's notable speakers is the Philippines' Sen. Edgardo Angara, author of PERA Law and Philippine Pension Reform.

For additional information on the conference and the association, visit www.apafs.org. ***(APAFS)***

DEQ cleanup brigade targets Wing Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Wing Beach on Saturday, Sept. 6.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the team members at Wing Beach at 8am.

Volunteers will clean until 10am, break for drinks, and then continues if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Last month, volunteers removed debris from Makaka Beach. The last time Wing Beach was selected as a brigade location was September 2007.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Belated happy 6th birthday greetings go out to Rane Angeline Ben, who celebrated her birthday at PIC. We love you. From Kuya Royce and Roxanne.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy seventh birthday to Dustin Ross D. Salilin! "We wish you all the best in life and happiness. We love you so much! Greetings come from your mommy Shirley and Daddy mar and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy second birthday to Mitch Karl R. Sayas, who is celebrating his birthday today, Aug. 19, Tuesday. Greetings come from Mommy Chielo, Daddy Mhar, MarchieLynn and Marion John.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TEAM FIESTA

Fiesta Resort and Spa GM B.K. Park poses with members of Team Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and others during the 7th Annual Foundation & Family Day Walk sponsored by the Saipan Walking Association which was held at 6am, Saturday, Aug. 16. Starting point was at the Carolinian Utt, all the way up to the tank on Quartermaster Road and back for the 5K and to the Oleai Beach Club and back for the 10K walk.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVII, Issue No. 227

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EDITORIAL

A misguided crackdown

Congress's failure to enact a workable immigration system last year prompted the Bush administration to redouble its previously lethargic efforts at enforcing existing immigration laws. The get-tough campaign—more workplace raids and arrests along the Mexican border, plus a smattering of criminal cases against employers—has two goals. One is to show a doubting public that the feds mean business. The other is to make things so miserable for businesses that corporate lobbyists join in the fight for meaningful immigration reform.

The results of this enforcement-only strategy have meant that undocumented workers are suffering the brunt of the misery even as businesses continue to employ millions of them. A new study by the Center for Immigration Studies, which opposes illegal immigration, suggests this strategy has helped prompt hundreds of thousands of undocumented workers to leave the country; the economic slowdown has added to the pressure by depriving them of jobs. Still, the administration's strategy of emphasizing punishment rather than prevention underscores the need for a more durable solution.

Seen as raw data, the numbers of illegal workers taken into custody in raids at meatpacking plants and other workplaces are striking. Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement made some 5,000 workplace arrests last year, 10 times as many as in 2002. Some recent sweeps have been dramatic, including a raid in May on Agriprocessors, a huge meatpacking plant in Iowa where 390 undocumented workers were arrested; many of them were charged with document fraud and received prison terms before their likely deportations.

But compare the arrests—as well as 90-odd criminal cases brought against various employers—against the ongoing reality of some 8 million undocumented workers, and the feds' efforts look modest. No doubt, some employers have felt the heat (partly from tougher state laws) and are checking prospective workers' documents more closely. Hiring more immigration agents has certainly increased the peril, and the cost, of sneaking across the southern border.

But the basic legal and economic dynamics that created the nation's dysfunctional immigration system remain largely unchanged. Despite the economic dip, there is still demand for unskilled labor that native-born Americans cannot supply. That demand will perk up when the economy does. The number of visas available for unskilled workers—66,000 per year—is laughably inadequate. Many thousands of workers continue to enter the country illegally or enter legally and then overstay their visas. A practical approach would acknowledge both the demand for unskilled labor and the fact that 5 percent of the American workforce consists of undocumented workers. It would raise the quota of temporary employment visas, establish a better system for employers to verify the legal status of job applicants and offer undocumented workers a way to register themselves and eventually earn citizenship. Critics will howl about an amnesty, but realists will see it is the way to address the reality of immigration and labor in a globalized marketplace.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

SO, TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, EXACTLY HOW OLD ARE YOU?...
Beijing 2008
WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS
UM, IS THIS MANY SIXTEEN?
CHINA
BROOKINS 8/08 RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Sensation sells

What the heck is it?

Rydlime, like all chemicals in its category, uses powerful acids and other agents to dissolve "rocks." When calcium or other hard water mineral deposits build up in cooling towers or system radiators they either have to be dismantled and "rodded out", an expensive process, or they need to be "descaled" chemically. Chemical descaling is usually cheaper and if done right can be very effective.

The use of purified water in these systems vastly reduces the buildup, but descaling or rodding still needs to be performed if the cooling system is to continue doing its job. Just like the engine in your car overheats and eventually stops if the radiator fails and the motor gets too hot, so a large engine in a power plant stops or even destroys itself if allowed to overheat. A utility with lots of cooling systems to treat and a high mineral content in its water source could use vast quantities of a descaling agent.

Rydlime, the chemical at the bottom of the current CUC/Lt. Governor flap, is a legitimate product with a good reputation for doing what it is designed to do. Many utilities and other companies around the world use it and other similar products to good effect.

Why would you buy so much?

Chemicals, like other commodities, are subject to price rises over time so companies, including utilities, often buy large quantities of a chemical and stockpile it to hedge against the coming price increases. As an example, if CUC bought 8,000-plus gallons of Rydlime as reported in the newspaper and used all but 1,400 gallon over 10 years they saved a lot. The savings would amount to several times the original cost.

Or pay so much?

Sole sourcing to one's sister may not be the legal, but chemical pricing at 400 percent is not uncommon. Want to guess how much that $3 bottle of Joy dishwashing liquid you bought last week actually cost to make? About 15 cents. Do your own math. That detergent bottle and most of the other bottles sitting under your sink and in your laundry have mark-ups far greater. In fact, the plastic bottles and labels cost more than the chemical inside by far. You pay a much higher markup than 400 percent every time you go to the store.

Rumor or truth?

There is speculation that some of the product was actually disposed of rather than used. If true that is a terrible thing. I have even heard a rumor that CUC personnel were actually ordered to dispose of the product. But a rumor is just that. It is a story without proof. Stories like that are usually from a hidden source and often with a hidden agenda. It is easy for someone with a grudge against someone to make up a story. It is much harder to make that phony story hold up under the scrutiny of an open court trial. Let's wait and see what actually comes out in court. If that unfounded rumor is true, heads should roll at CUC and above. If false, the rumormongers should be tracked down and their heads should roll instead.

Guilty or not?

My friend Harry Blalock reminds us on his radio show that "just because you are decreed not guilty in court does not mean you didn't do it" because a good attorney can find a way to get you off. I would remind Harry, and you too, that just because a sharp prosecuting attorney accuses you of something does not mean that you did do it. Remember it is the job of the prosecuting attorney to "get you" whether you did it or not and it is the job of the defense attorney to "get you off" whether you did it or not. Again, let's wait and see the real evidence as offered under oath in court.

So there is nothing wrong with buying Rydlime if you need it and there is nothing wrong with buying lots of it and stockpiling it for future use. In fact it is the smart way to do it. There is also nothing unusual about large markups over cost of chemicals or most other products. There is definitely something wrong with declaring an emergency purchase and then buying enough of a commodity to last a decade. There is definitely something wrong with sole sourcing a contract to close family members and depriving the agency of a chance to source the same or similar product at a lower cost benefit ratio. But are these accusations true? One last time, I will call for us to wait and let the court system do its job before a man and his reputation are sullied by gossip and allegation. There is plenty of time to vilify him if proven guilty in court…or to apologize if the accusations prove untrue.

See SENSATION on Next Page

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

U.S. Congress delegate

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

"I have a very clear idea of what can be accomplish in office but more than that I have a very clear vision of what should be accomplished for the entire CNMI," David M. Cing, U.S. Congress delegate candidate, wrote in a recent letter to the editor. Mr. Cing just moved to the front of my social studies class!

Persons vying for the new position by public accounts, in alphabetical order, are: Felipe Atalig (municipal councilor), David Cing (lawmaker), Luis Crisostimo (lawmaker), John Davis (teacher), John Gonzales (public celebrity), Juan Lizama (judge), Pete A. Tenorio (incumbent), Chong Won (businessman), and Gregorio Zablan (Election Commission executive director).

The position of the delegate to the U.S. Congress is that of a nonvoting member, a fact decried in some quarters as nothing but a glorified lobbyist. Nonvoting members do get assigned to committees and vote in those committees. In 1993, a Democratic Congress passed a rule change that allowed voting rights on the House floor in the "Committee of the Whole," where bills are debated and amended. It was, however, stipulated that if a delegate's vote was decisive, the committee would disband and a new vote would be taken without them.

This House rule was reversed in the 1995 Republican Congress, and reinstated in the 2007 Democratic Congress, the party identification used here only because lawmakers voted along party lines.

Regardless, with an annual income of $169,300, the position is nothing to sneer at, and hardly to despair about. Nor should the function of a lobbyist be snubbed. Why, lobbyists have been the ones who have been making the decisions for our lawmakers in recent years, writing their bills and even under-the-table-writing their bills! Remember Abramoff and how much we depended on him and his lobbying?

Why else would we have a hue and cry over election reform efforts, especially when it curtails the power and influence of paid lobbyists?

Nonvoting or voting, that is still a position of considerable influence so I would want to choose carefully who I want to represent me in that hallowed chamber of priorities and commitments. Here are my accountability and assessment sticks.

Social Prophet

First, I want my delegate be a social prophet, someone who will not hesitate to challenge the primary illusions of the culture, native and worldwide. A social prophet does not cloak himself with delusions of the past, nor hide behind the illusions of the future. He is lucid about the realities of the present and dares embrace them, even celebrate their facticity and givenness, locally and globally. The social prophet is grounded on the heap dung of authenticity, and cares enough to fertilize our imagination with it.

More pertinently, my delegate would have thought about how the Commonwealth's economic processes of resource utilization, adequate production and equitable distribution be addressed. It means that s/he has a picture of the natural, human and technological resources present and available in our land and waters, and how they may be made meaningfully and significantly productive.

How is the political process of maintaining law and order, recognizing majority opinions and protecting minority rights, ensuring public service for all, going to abide? How is the cultural process of honoring historic songs, signs, stories and symbols, transmitting the same for the appropriation of all, and enlivening the promotion of the diversity that is the moments inheritance, be sustained?

Let me rephrase: As in the words of one of my colleagues at Kagman, to avoid the Berkeley-speak, how does Mr. Cing and any of the candidates see this Commonwealth supporting and sustaining all of its residents, engaging everyone to take ownership of decisions being made, and giving each permission to live the fullness of their cultural heritage, and their personal hopes and aspirations?

Or, more concisely, what images would each candidate share with us about their vision of our Commonwealth's economics, politics and culture?

Social prophets who rant and rave about what they are not for, or are against, or despair into hopelessness because of the absence or lack of something, trade in the currency of hot air. We shan't linger too long in the effluent of their posterior; we shall heed closely the concretion of their anterior vision.

Competent Politician

Just as equally important as a social prophet, I expect my delegate to be a competent politician, someone who builds a winning coalition among the existing voting population within the existing political structure. There are many of us who expect our politicians to be social prophets who mouth the ideals we profess, support and advance. Not hung up on ideological purity, I would rather like to see a competent politician who can build the most useful coalition of power in support of progressive values.

We are a population of competing values. Many among us put the safety, comfort and ease of our feelings, lift up the perfumed pedestal of our ideals, and hammer the certitude of our principles first before glancing at the requirements of orderly public discourse. We cry easily in public revealing a low threshold on sentiments; we are quick to digress when interrupted and to disagree when confronted rather than simply reveal a differing perspective. Our legislators even use the cloak of legislative immunity to deliver vitriolic, virulent and vituperative speeches. (Grab your dictionaries, boys and girls!)

A competent politician attempts not only to listen to other perspectives but to recognize them in building the consensus for concerted efforts. The current Olympiad XXIX in Beijing, as has been true in the last four ones, reminds us again that individuals do not compete to attain one-upmanship against other athletes. Athletes excel to exceed the milestone of their last performance, and should that translate to be the best in a class, it will be recognized with one's national identity. The recognition is not given as a license for uninhibited juvenile bragging rights!

"Form follows function," the architect Frank Lloyd Wright was wont to say. Running for public office is least about generating personal and family status, nor fame and glory, although God-help-us, our politics is certainly fueled by the grease of clannish and familial relations. It is about the reality an old-fashion word generated long time ago in the marble columns of Athens and Rome points to—"public service."

In a world where style is given more credence than substance, the candidate's way of comporting himself in public and how he is perceived as not only one who represents us, but one who listens enough so that he can truly represent us, qualifies as a competent politician in my book. Artfulness in articulating the vision and boldness in formulating the consensus is a definite plus.

So David, and the rest of you guys, go ahead and share with us your vision!

Reliable and affordable power for the CNMI

By JAMES QUICK
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dr. James Quick, a college professor and former member of the U.S. Geological Services, is the special energy adviser to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. The Administration hired Dr. Quick to help explore and develop alternative energy sources for the CNMI, with an emphasis on geothermal energy.

In its August 4th editorial, "The CNMI power crisis: A many headed monster," the Saipan Tribune correctly makes the point that the quality of life and the future of the economy in the CNMI require that we work together to solve the energy crisis. The Administration has a plan to stabilize prices and provide adequate power in the near term, and to develop sources of renewable energy that can provide relief from the rising cost of imported fossil fuel in the long term.

To address immediate needs, the Administration is deploying temporary Aggreko generators so that the CNMI's aging generators can be shut down to undergo much needed maintenance. Rehabilitation of existing generating capacity will stabilize electrical generation and eliminate brownouts and blackouts, and conversion of generators from diesel to fuel oil will lower fuel costs. At the same time, net metering legislation will allow private generating capacity to contribute power to the grid. To reduce the price of imported fuel, the Administration is working with other Micronesian states to create a purchasing collective.

But these are near term solutions, and the Administration recognizes that renewable energy is the ultimate answer. The Administration supported legislation to set a time table for production of 80 percent of the Commonwealths energy needs from renewable sources by 2014, and we are actively working to foster the development of two types of renewable energy that are commercially available sources of power successfully deployed elsewhere at the scale required in the CNMI: wind and geothermal.

Average wind speeds in the CNMI are adequate to generate electricity most of the year. Implementation of the net metering legislation will make deployment of small wind turbines attractive on the scale of individual households, and efforts are underway to court investors to deploy larger wind turbines. It is important to understand that, because wind speeds can be variable, wind power cannot completely eliminate our dependence on imported fossil fuel.

Geothermal power is the "gold standard" of alternative energy because it provides constant, reliable, inexpensive generation of electricity. The Administration, with the help of funding from OIA, has retained nationally known experts, Dr. David Blackwell and Dr. Roy Mink, to lead an assessment of geothermal power potential in the CNMI. Preliminary indications are that the volcanic islands north of Saipan are rich sources of geothermal power, and the economic feasibility of a submarine cable, which is a proven, albeit expensive technology, is under consideration as a mechanism to transport electricity to our populated islands and Guam. As part of the geothermal assessment, a test hole will be drilled on Saipan in the coming months to determine if sufficiently high temperatures exist to generate electricity closer to home utilizing commercially available binary geothermal power plants.

In conclusion, we would like to reinforce the Tribune's call to work together. The challenge posed by the CNMI's energy crisis is too great to be treated as a political issue, and we call upon all government leaders to join us in aggressive action to provide reliable and affordable power to the people of the CNMI.

SENSATION

From Page 10

Temples—not Shirley

Ruth Tighe, in talking about the new Buddhist temple to be built along the roadway in previously unspoiled Marpi, says we need to "hoard our public lands" as one our most important natural resources. I agree. Don't build on it, she says. Keep it forever, she says. She then goes on to say in the same article that we should give away the northernmost three islands in our terribly scarce land resource by ceding them to the U.S. federal government for all time. I point out this inconsistency not to be mean, but just to say that supporters and advocates of one project or another sometimes can't see the forest for the trees (or the temple in the trees). Sometimes the horrible details outweigh the puppies and babies feel-good rhetoric about saving the planet. Sometimes not.

The temple might just improve the looks of the tangan tangan bramble thickets up there…and maybe not. Let's see the plan. Then we can approve it or not based on real evidence. Sort of like we should first see the plan for the Pew-proposed Northern Islands Monument. Why on earth would we want to approve it first, (or allow the federal government to force approval of it on us) and only then bother to look at the actual plan. Does that sound like putting the cart before the horse? Yes, it does. Worse, it sounds like having the cart, horse and all shoved down your throat, then a guy comes along and says, "Hey, your throat sure looks sore, if you are a good little boy I'll give you some salt water to gargle. Then it will be all better." Maybe it will be better and maybe it will be a lot worse. Shirley (sorry, groan) we can do better than that. Let's negotiate the details first, then decide whether to declare a monument and give land and ocean to the U.S. national parks system for all time. It may be a wonderful plan, it may suck.

■■■

Quotes of the week: Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right.

—Laurens van der Post, explorer and writer (1906-1996)

The sky is not less blue because the blind man does not see it

—Danish proverb

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

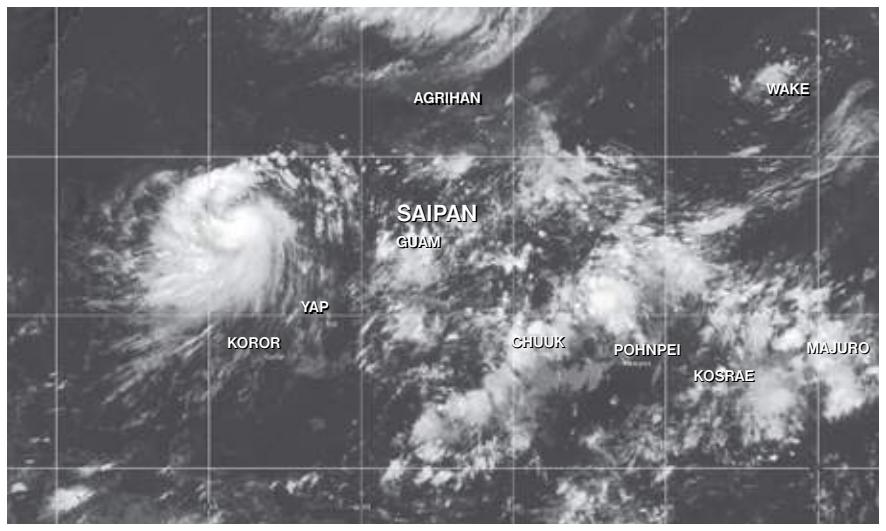
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼72
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼44
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Showers	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼64
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Miami	Cloudy	▲89	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼64
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼70
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼69
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼64
Salem	Showers	▲76	▼55
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼64
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:05PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Nuri is centered near 16N135E about 800 miles west of the Marianas moving west at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and thunderstorms extend out to 50 miles from the center. Beyond that, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend out to 160 miles from the center. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marianas within 100 miles of a line extending from 15N144E to 9N143E. Converging winds associated with a surface trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of line from 12N157E to EQ145E. This area includes Chuuk. A upper-level low centered at 25N167E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of the low between 21N and 15N from 151E to 160E. Trade-wind convergence aided by upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands and parts of eastern Micronesia including Kosrae between 10N and 3N from 161E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:17AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
8:41AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:22PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:41PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	6:03AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	6:03AM	6:37 PM
Friday	6:03AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:09PM	7:47AM
Wednesday	8:48PM	8:39AM
Thursday	9:29PM	9:34AM
Friday	10:15PM	10:31AM
Saturday	11:05PM	11:31AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES			
Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS			
Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

A new start for the economy

First of a four-part series

The refreshing request for economic stimulus ideas, by Rep. Tina Sablan, is the first elected legislator to my knowledge who has ever requested such input from the citizenry beyond the confines of formal legislative hearings.

I have several observations and thoughts which I have been harboring for a number of years which I would now like to offer under the heading of "whatever they are worth" in keeping with her invitation for comments. These frank comments are made in an attempt to be helpful to the reader to possibly see the island's investment climate as a potential investor might view it—especially during these trying times. Indeed, some local readers might interpret my comments as being haughty or a self professed "know-it-all attitude." I hope not—my message is not intended to be so.

Before advancing my thoughts, I want to state a belief I have tried to follow, which is a basic tenet of the famous Dale Carnegie instruction which holds, "One must have earned the right to address a group and thus occupy their time and attention"—meaning, of course, one must have something to offer so as not to waste people's valuable time. Along that vein—and as a preface in defending my right to hold an opinion for those who care to read it—I offer a brief background for evaluation prior to advancing several thoughts for those interested which I believe currently serve to inhibit foreign investment in the islands in any substantial amount. This belief is related to my entry long ago into the field of foreign investment promotion as one method to assist in the growth of developing economies. There may be a lesson somewhere for those in the islands interested in stimulating such growth and in correcting some deficiencies which I believe inhibit such investment at this time. Whether the thoughts which follow are of any value, the reader must judge.

As a bit of background, when Kennedy became President he was aware that many of the newly emerging nations—most of them economically underdeveloped and all former colonies of France, England, Belgium, etc., had gained their independence and were becoming members of the United Nations (where, of course, they could vote). Many of these new nations were flirting with socialism and communism as an economic philosophy with the heavy hand of government influencing economic growth. Kennedy decided that as a part of his foreign policy he would require the State Department to instigate programs, supported by U.S. financial assistance, to encourage the concept of capitalism and private enterprise as an alternative and counter the stifling bureaucratic inefficiency of socialism and communism on economic growth and private initiative. This was the period at the height of intense competition on all fronts of the Cold War. In part it was the adversarial relationship with the former Soviet Union and mainland China which played a role in the United States offering the NMI a closer relationship which eventually evolved into the Commonwealth as we know it today.

It was during the Cold War era I became affiliated with the State Department's Office of Private Enterprise and the program of providing economic and technical assistance to newly emerging nations. I very soon became a crusader for private enterprise and joint venture foreign investment in participation with local people. It's almost a religion with me—that's why I feel so strongly about the effort. I learned some of the tools used to bring such investment about such as various business incentives, the preparation of project financial feasibility documentation as investment prospectuses, etc., as well as some things not to do. Some of these will be discussed in Part 4 of this series.

That stated, I'll advance my personal opinion over the next few days as to what I believe is necessary to improve the economy of the NMI, an area in which I have more than three decades of experience starting long before the birth of the Commonwealth.

Sometime economists use a line of reasoning to the effect—when working toward the solution of a problem, it is helpful if you know the answer you want, providing of course you know there is a problem. Here's my take on the CNMI's problems, at least as related to encouraging foreign investment as a vehicle to stimulate economic growth. Some of what I point out in the articles which follow will not be pleasant for some to read—but it has to be said. It's bitter medicine.

First, realize nepotism and protectionism are killing the economy. Not SARS, not 9 -11 and not the feds.

Secondly, projects on Tinian aside, the CNMI must establish a reputation for welcoming foreign investment on Saipan and in doing so embark upon a program to convince foreign capital that the islands are profitable locations in which to prosper. This will require creative investment incentives, cutting bureaucratic red tape, assigning the responsibility and accountability for encouraging foreign investment to a particular group with an adequate budget and then

'Potential investors who will look deep enough and pierce the veil will discover that among some who have served in the Legislature and the administration there will appear to be little recognition of what investment capital really is—and from what it is derived.'

both branches of government, the administration and Legislature, must get out of the way and let the office do its work. No micromanaging, no political witch hunts. Like it or not, this will require adapting to the new policies of federalization.

At this point some might ask: Why encourage foreign investment? Why indeed? If the community doesn't want additional foreign investment, then keep doing what you are doing and maintain the status quo in terms of attitudes. But do recall that, with few notable exceptions, a number of former indigenous people who tried their hand in business haven't demonstrated a sustained track record in the investment and management of tourism and manufacturing oriented enterprises. How many businesses can you recall that started out as being locally owned, only to have them fold up or sell out after a short period of time? I can name dozens. Also, for the most part, and at the present time, most local people have only a limited amount of venture risk capital that would permit them to participate in large scale projects. Some simply don't possess the entrepreneurial drive, spirit or interest.

There are certainly many astute Chamorro and Carolinian businessmen and women active in the economy and a great many are my long time friends and acquaintances—and I certainly don't mean to disparage their valuable contribution over the years. I'm simply saying there should have been more such people. Certainly the youth of today should demand a reserved place at the business table of the future and opportunities must be made available to them.

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

That doesn't mean there shouldn't be a place for foreign investment on Saipan. However, it's time to realize that in the eyes of many potential investors the NMI has damaged its reputation for outside investment which must be overcome and improved upon and the adverse causes either eliminated or mitigated as much as possible. Not much can be done to change nature's climate—but a lot can be done to improve the area's business climate.

Realize that any potential investor who might even remotely be considering the islands as an investment location will conduct a through analysis of the island's past and present investment climate, its rules, regulations and laws—of which there is a prodigious number—all in English and thus largely unknown to many potential foreign investors.

Currently, chances are they will discover situations and attitudes that will not be all that complimentary to the islands, at least from their viewpoint. I believe—truth be known— that much of the recent Japanese bailout was a result of deteriorating conditions ranging from government waste, red tape, crime, kickbacks, etc., and a general indifference on the part of the government toward their (Japanese) investment and infrastructure needs. It's a suspicion I have. Oh, the Japanese will never tell you that; they are too polite. But based upon my instinct I will advance the opinion that it is true—if only partially.

Those potential investors who will look deep enough and pierce the veil will discover that among some who have served in the Legislature and the administration there will appear to be little recognition of what investment capital really is—and from what it is derived. Investment capital is risk, venture money. Nothing in business is certain and one enters a venture (perhaps adventure is a better word) and takes the risk that the endeavor will be successful and that the investor will be rewarded. The reward for taking the risk is the profit earned. The money which is put at risk is itself a product of thrift, prudence, planning, management and, in some cases, sacrifice. It is extremely rare for such money to flow into areas where these traits are not respected. It is quite another matter, however, in an area which has yet to establish its long-term record of stability in dealing in a positive way with foreign investment with the result that a degree of uncertainty is likely to be present.

To be continued.

Editor's note: Bill Stewart, an economic historian, is the author of The Business Reference and Investment Guide to Northern Mariana Islands; Introducing The Northern Mariana Islands—An American Doorstep To Asia; Tourism Investment Opportunities in the NMI *and more that 275 published essays on the history, geography, economy and social issues in the NMI many of which have been translated into Japanese and Chinese.*

Letter to the Editor

John H. Davis Jr. in a nutshell

Hello! As you probably already know, I am running for the seat of CNMI Delegate to the U.S. Congress. However, you probably don't know much about me. And since I am not as well known as some of the other candidates, I thought I'd better start catching up in the "who I am" department.

I have been a resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for 22 years. I arrived in the CNMI in September1986 to assist in the opening of the Commonwealth Health Center. I was the CHC's first Radiology Department Manager. If you are 21 or 22 years old and were born in the Commonwealth, I probably took the first pictures of you (using ultrasound). I was later the resident manager for FHP when it moved to its current location in the Oleai Center. I have also worked as a taxi driver, courier, fitness trainer, bartender as well as other so-called "ordinary everyday jobs."

Until recently I was very actively involved in sports. I have competed in football, wrestling, boxing, and track. I have competed internationally in track and boxing. I represented the CNMI in bodybuilding and weightlifting. I have been a sport parachutist, and taekwondo "breaking" demonstrator, and I have skied the Alpspitz (a mountain in Germany) from top to bottom.

I retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service. I earned the Combat Medic's Badge and Bronze Star with "V' Device while serving one and a half tours with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. I have earned All-American status on two separate occasions as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Saipan Post 3457.

My children are all adults and, except for my youngest, live in the mainland United States. I raised three children here in the Commonwealth. My baby is now a sophomore at Northern Marianas College. My family ties within the Commonwealth are limited. I am not a member of any political party or political organization. I live in the CNMI because I like it here (the sun, the ocean, the beaches, the laidback lifestyle that sometimes is laidback a little too much). I don't owe money or favors to anyone. I speak my mind and sometimes from my heart.

I have a master's degree in Education and I teach Advanced Placement Language Arts (English) and Advanced Placement Government and Politics at Marianas High School.

Two years is a very short time to claim that I am going to move the earth. So aside from my pledge to faithfully represent all of the people of the CNMI with truth, honesty, and integrity, I will also promise not to use the office to maximize my photo opportunities, not to use the office to maximize my time on the golf courses, not use the office to assault my subordinates, and not to use the office to line my own or my family's pockets.

What I will do is:

(1) Introduce legislation for the transfer of the control of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and submerged lands surrounding the CNMI from the United States to the CNMI.

(2) Immediately introduce legislation to have an office of the Small Business Administration open in the CNMI.

(3) Immediately introduce legislation to have a Veterans Administration Hospital built in the CNMI.

(4) And, if it is still an issue, work to have green cards and/or passports granted to non-American individuals who have immediate relative status in the CNMI.

I think that getting these issues resolved will be a full time endeavor. If anyone is promising more, he is either lying, has no concept of the nature of the office, or he is a superhero.

Well, that's me, John H. Davis, Jr. in a very small nutshell. But, at least you have an idea of who I am. I will be happy to meet with anyone or any group to elaborate on my positions. If you are inclined to hear more, please contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807, 235-5123, or 235-9115, and she will set a time and date. Thank you for your time and no matter whom you vote for, please vote.

John H. Davis Jr.
via e-mail

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

PBGC downplays investment plan risks, report says

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal agency charged with backstopping pension benefits for 44 million Americans has understated the risks of its new investment policy, a congressional watchdog said Monday. The Government Accountability Office said in a report that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.'s new strategy could significantly boost the PBGC's investment returns, but it "will likely also carry more risk than acknowledged by PBGC's analysis." The PBGC said earlier this year that it would take a more aggressive investment approach by investing more in stocks and adding new alternative investments, such as real estate and private equity funds. The agency, which has assets of $68 billion, hopes the strategy will help it close a $14 billion gap between those assets and its liabilities.

Breaking up big banks questioned as losses mount

NEW YORK (AP)—America's biggest banks have suffered unprecedented losses from the ongoing credit crisis, and that's made some investors question whether the big financial conglomerates should be broken up in order to survive. Break-up advocates, who for months have been clamoring for Citigroup Inc. to be dismantled, got some validation of their viewpoint this past week. Europe's UBS AG—created through the combination of Swiss Bank Corp. and Union Bank of Switzerland in 1997—on Wednesday laid the groundwork to tear up its business model after another quarter of steep losses. Though the UBS announcement was expected, it was nonetheless a departure from what executives promised during a wave of big bank deals that began in the late 1990s. The creators of global banks like Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase & Co., and HSBC Holdings PLC had promised customers and shareholders that a diverse set of businesses would shield them from economic volatility.

Oil's down, stocks are up, but uncertainty remains

NEW YORK (AP)—The past four weeks on Wall Street have been quite a welcome contrast. Stocks have risen, the dollar has strengthened and oil prices have plummeted. Last week, after seesawing, the Dow Jones industrial average finished down 0.63. The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended the week up 0.15 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.59 percent. This week, investors will keep monitoring the energy markets, and also see how the housing industry is faring in the National Association of Home Builder's index on Monday and the Commerce Department's Tuesday report on July new home construction. At the same time, Wall Street will be gauging the financial health of consumers in the earnings reports of retailers. Last week, the Labor Department reported a hefty 0.8 percent increase in consumer prices for July.

TV remains top source of news even as online grows

NEW YORK (AP)—Fewer Americans are reading newspapers and are instead getting their news online, but television remains the leading source of news in the country, according to a survey released Sunday. Not surprisingly, younger people tend to get more of their news on the Internet, while older folks use traditional media such as television and newspapers, the Pew Research Center's biannual survey on news consumption habits said. Pew said the results show an increasing shift toward online news consumption, but that there is now a sizable group of a more engaged, sophisticated and well-off people that use both traditional and online sources to get their news.

Qwest, unions keep talking; workers remain on job

DENVER (AP)—Qwest Communications International Inc. and members of its largest union headed back to the bargaining table Sunday for further negotiations after a labor contract expired. The talks come a little more than a week before the start of the Democratic National Convention in Denver, where Qwest is providing phone and Internet services. Qwest also is providing service to the Republican National Convention that begins Sept. 1 in St. Paul, Minn. Workers represented by the Communications Workers of America had voted to authorize a strike if needed, but CWA organizing coordinator Al Kogler said no strike had been called when the contract expired after 11:59 p.m. Saturday. The talks broke off a couple of hours later, but both sides said they were meeting again Sunday evening.

Inflated appraisal nearly cost family its home

HOPE MILLS, N.C. (AP)—After 25 years as a doorman on Manhattan's Upper East Side, Carl Petrone was ready to retire from the cold winters and his daily commute.

Petrone and his wife, Marie, wanted a home someplace warm, and found it in North Carolina—a red-brick tri-level on a quiet, tree-lined street. It was bigger than their tiny place in New York and came with the right price. The home was appraised at $114,500. The real estate agents dropped the price by $6,000 to make the sale. "We thought it was a steal," Marie Petrone remembers.

It was a steal—a steal from the Petrones.

As the couple would discover, they were the unwitting victims of an unscrupulous appraiser and—as uncovered by a six-month Associated Press investigation—a poorly designed system unable to keep up with such dishonesty.

Only a month after the Petrones bought their house with a conventional mortgage, Carl Petrone was diagnosed with cancer. He and Marie decided to move back to New York to be with family, and listed the home at $118,500. There were a couple early offers, all for much less.

"We thought: 'This is crazy,'" Marie Petrone said. "The appraiser said the house was worth $114,500, so why would we sell it for $100,000?"

A new appraiser concluded their house was worth only $98,000 and said the Petrones had been duped in 1999: The home hadn't lost value. It was just never worth the price they paid.

Marie Petrone poses for a picture at her apartment in New York, Friday, May 23, 2008. AP

An angry Marie Petrone filed a complaint with the North Carolina Appraisal Board, alleging the original appraiser, Ed Britt, conspired with the real estate agents—who also owned the home—to inflate its value.

"I called regularly to ask for updates. But most of the time they never returned my calls. Finally, I just gave up," Marie Petrone said.

Board director Philip Humphries said his agency should have contacted the Petrones. But he defended the board's overall performance in regulating the state's 3,500 appraisers. "The mere fact that a number of complaints have been filed against a person doesn't mean that all of the complaints reach the level of where there needs to be disciplinary action taken," he said.

The board suspended Britt's license for a year. The formal order said it was for failing to return the couple's phone calls, but board attorney Roberta Ouellette told the AP the discipline was also imposed for writing an inflated appraisal. Britt later faced additional complaints once back in business, both of which were dropped after he died in 2003.

Marie Petrone was able to sell her home—just weeks before the bank was set to foreclose. By then, Carl Petrone was dead. She lost money on the deal and returned to New York, where she lives with her two children and works two jobs to help make ends meet.

"This was something that never should have happened," Marie Petrone said. "We were taken advantage of, and there was no one there to protect us."

Questions and answers on hiring an appraiser

Questions and answers on how consumers can ensure they are getting an honest appraisal when buying or selling a home, refinancing an existing mortgage or taking out a home equity loan or line of credit:

Q: Who orders an appraisal?

A: Most appraisals are ordered by lenders, who use the information to determine the collateral value of a home when deciding whether approve a mortgage loan. But consumers can also order an appraisal, and might choose to do so for a number of reasons. Among the most common is to help them decide on a fair price for a home they wish to buy or sell.

Q: What should I look for when I hire an appraiser?

A: First, look for an appraiser who is licensed and certified by your state. Most states have an appraisal board that should be able to provide an appraiser's qualifications, as will the Web site of the federal Appraisal Subcommittee: http://www.asc.gov/

Q: Will that Web site tell me what I need to know?

A: Yes and no. The Appraisal Subcommittee's Web site will feature information about an appraiser's qualifications. But it will only list disciplinary action that is current. Suspensions and other past disciplinary actions won't be listed.

Q: Can't I get that information from my state's appraisal board?

A: Not really. State appraiser boards are generally reluctant to release any information about an appraiser's disciplinary history. That includes how many complaints have been filed against an appraiser.

Q: So, how can I make sure I'm getting a fair appraisal?

A: That's a tough question. To start, make sure your appraiser is independent—don't allow a lender to pick the appraiser. Also, use a commonsense test. If the home next door just sold for $150,000 and the appraiser values the home in your deal at $200,000, you have reason to be suspicious. You can also hire another appraiser for a second opinion.

Q: If I have a complaint, whom should I contact?

A: Every state has an appraisal board or agency that accepts and investigates complaints, holds hearings and disciplines appraisers. Some states, however, do not accept anonymous complaints, and disputes can take years to be resolved.

Media coverage of the economy lags, study finds

NEW YORK (AP)—Media coverage of the economic downturn in the U.S. has lagged behind both economic activity and public interest, according to a study being released Monday by a Washington, D.C.-based research group.

The Project for Excellence in Journalism analyzed more than 5,000 economic stories in 2007 and the first half of 2008. The stories, by 48 different news outlets, were delivered by cable news channels, network television, radio, newspapers and the Internet. The study found that reliance on government data to track the economy is leading to scattershot coverage that, at times, lags months behind actual economic conditions.

"We can see little flashpoints in gas prices or a spike in joblessness but getting the whole picture is extremely difficult, in part because we're depending on government collected data, which could often be three months later," said Project Director Tom Rosenstiel.

At times, this has meant that reporters were writing about weakening economic trends at the very moment that conditions were starting to improve or vice versa.

Meanwhile, various media have focused on different aspects of the economy at different times. Television coverage has tended to focus on gas prices, while newspapers have leaned toward banking and housing stories.

As a result, it is difficult for the casual news consumer to understand the story of the economy, Rosenstiel said. "Is it a housing story? Is it a gasoline prices story? Is it an inflation story?"

The study also found that Americans' concern about the economy has far surpassed the media's focus on the topic. The economy has been the number 2 story of 2008 so far—ahead of the war in Iraq. But media coverage of the presidential race has outstripped economic coverage by a five-to-one margin, although the economy has ranked as Americans' top concern.

There are no easy ways to wean journalists from depending on government statistics, Rosenstiel said.

"We need to create other listening posts than the Treasury Department and the Bureau of Labor Statistics," he said.

Nation

Grand Canyon floods breach dam

PHOENIX (AP)—Days of heavy rains around the Grand Canyon created flooding that breached an earthen dam Sunday and forced helicopters to pluck scores of residents and campers from the gorge. No injuries were immediately reported

The weather and dam breach caused flooding in a side canyon containing a village where about 400 members of the Havasupai tribe live and where some of the evacuations occurred, said Gerry Blair, a spokesman for the Coconino County Sheriff's Department.

There were no confirmed reports of damage in the village, Supai, which is on high ground, Blair said. Many residents and campers chose to stay there, Blair said

"We're not as concerned about it as we initially were," he said.

The dam breaching was only one factor in the flooding, Blair said. The dam isn't a "huge, significant" structure, he said.

Still, a flash flood warning remained in effect, and search and rescue teams planned to stay in the village overnight as a precaution. Blair said authorities were still trying to contact some people known to be in the canyon, though the majority were accounted for.

Some hiking trails and footbridges were washed out after the dam breach about 45 miles upstream from Supai, said Grand Canyon National Park spokeswoman Maureen Oltrogge. Trees were uprooted, the National Weather Service said.

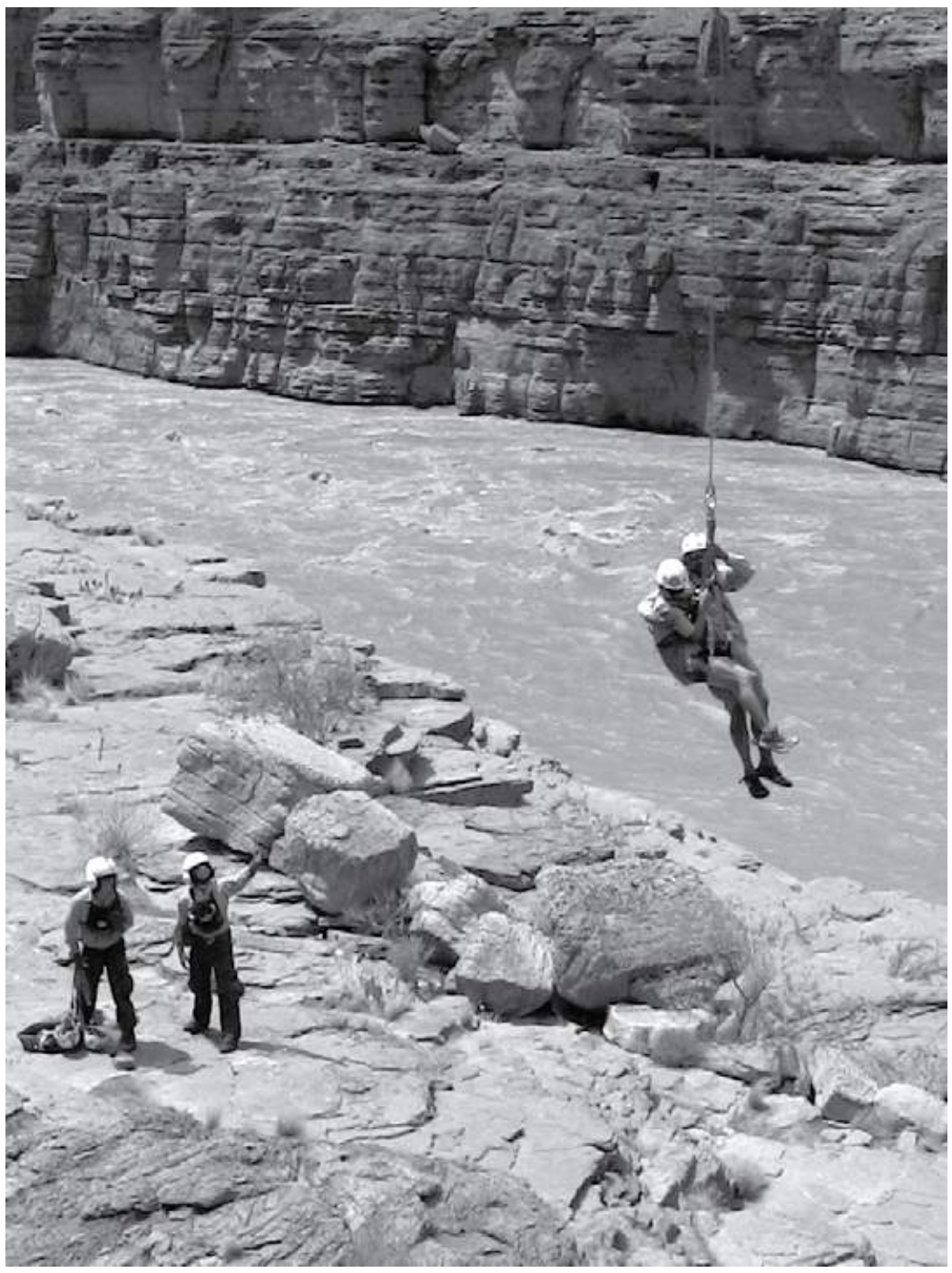
About 150 people had fled by helicopter, and evacuations were to continue until dark for those who wanted to leave, Blair said.

The effort was initially intended to include about 200 campers and possibly 200 village residents, Blair said, but he didn't know how many them were taken out.

As much as 8 inches of rain since Friday caused trouble even before the dam was breached. A private boating party of 16 people was stranded on a ledge at the confluence of Havasu Creek and the Colorado River on Saturday night after flood waters carried their rafts away, Oltrogge said.

The boaters were found uninjured and were rescued from the Grand Canyon, whose floor is unreachable in many places except by helicopter.

Rescuers tried to find visitors staying at the Supai Campground and escort them to safety, Oltrogge said.



AP

In this photo released by the the National Park Service (NPS), a stranded rafter is lowered to shore by an NPS employee after being short hauled across the Colorado River Sunday Aug. 17, 2008 in the Grand Canyon.

Officials want 8 sect kids back in custody

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—More than two months after being forced to return children from a polygamist sect to their parents, Texas child welfare authorities want eight of the youngsters put back in foster care.

Individual hearings for the four mothers of the children, ranging in age from 5 to 17, are set to begin Monday

Child Protective Services has asked Texas District Judge Barbara Walther to return the children to foster care because their mothers allegedly have refused to limit their contact with men accused of being involved in underage marriages. "We continue to have concerns in particular for these eight children, which is why we have asked the judge to review the case," said CPS spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner.

None of the children currently live at the Yearning For Zion Ranch in Eldorado, where authorities swept roughly 440 children into foster care in April. Officials said the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which established the ranch, was forcing girls into underage marriages and grooming boys to be adult abusers.

Six weeks after the children were placed in foster care, the Texas Supreme Court forced CPS to return them to their parents, ruling that the agency presented evidence of no more than a handful of teenage girls being abused. Many of the children taken into CPS custody were infants and toddlers.

Visitors urged to leave Florida Keys ahead of Fay

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—Florida Keys officials closed schools, opened shelters and urged visitors to leave as Tropical Storm Fay threatened to strengthen into a hurricane Sunday, but residents and tourists seemed in no hurry to evacuate. Traffic remained light leaving Key West and the Lower Keys on Sunday afternoon as the sky darkened with storm clouds and the National Weather Service issued watches and warnings.

"We've seen worse than this in Omaha," said Diego Sainz, who was visiting from Nebraska with his wife and friends. They had intended to leave Sunday but couldn't get a flight out.

Authorities said traffic was becoming heavy in the Upper Keys, where the 110-mile, mostly two-lane highway that runs through the island chain meets the mainland. The Florida Highway Patrol sent in extra troopers to assist and tolls were suspended on parts of the northbound turnpike. Fay could start pelting parts of the Keys and South Florida late Monday or early Tuesday as a strong tropical storm or minimal hurricane. Aside from wind damage, most of the islands sit at sea level and could face some limited flooding from Fay's storm surge.

Officials in the Keys and elsewhere planned to open shelters and encouraged or ordered people who live in low-lying areas and on boats to evacuate. Schools in the Keys will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

Texas authorities say body is abducted clerk

DALLAS (AP)—A body found in a remote area was been identified as the clerk whose abduction from a store in a small North Texas town was recorded by security cameras, authorities said Sunday.

Mindy Daffern, 46, had been missing since Friday from the store her family owns in the city of Scotland, 130 miles northwest of Dallas. Surveillance camera videotape showed her being confronted at gunpoint by an unmasked man who walked her outside the store.

A man suspected in the abduction led investigators to the body Saturday and Texas Rangers confirmed it was Daffern, Archer County Sheriff Ed Daniels said Sunday.

Wallace Bowman Jr., 30, of Bowie, was being held on charges of aggravated robbery and kidnapping and Daniels said he is expected to be charged with capital murder. His bail was set at $3 million.

Bowman did not yet have an attorney to speak for him, Daniels said.

Daffern's body was found in a remote area near the town of Sunset in neighboring Montague County. Investigators were awaiting on an autopsy report, Daniels said.

"She was just a down to earth, good person," he said. They're a very close-knit family and of course it's just completely devastated the family."

Video from one store camera showed a man casually walking into the store and handing Daffern a cup, then pulling out a handgun and pointing it at her face.

ACROSS THE NATION

Schwarzenegger has surgery on knee hurt in workout

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has had surgery to repair his right knee, which he injured while exercising about two weeks ago. The 61-year-old former bodybuilder had his knee examined Saturday after experiencing some discomfort. His staff said Sunday that the torn cartilage in his knee was repaired by arthroscopic surgery. Schwarzenegger was under anesthesia for about 45 minutes Saturday. The powers of his office were transferred to Lt. Gov. John Garamendi during that time. Spokesman Matt David called the operation minor and said Schwarzenegger was walking on his own Sunday. The former actor has suffered numerous physical injuries over the years, most recently breaking his thigh bone while skiing in 2006.

Calif. man rescued after 2 nights in old mine

SONORA, Calif. (AP)—A man was rescued from an abandoned gold mine Sunday after tumbling more than 100 feet and spending two nights at the bottom of the dark shaft, authorities said. A search-and-rescue team pulled Darvis Lee Jr., 34, from the mine around 6 a.m. after lowering a rescue worker and a mesh basket into the chasm, the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department said. He was treated at a hospital for back and leg injuries and released. Lee, of Sonora, fell down the 100-foot shaft while exploring the mine Friday night. Authorities were contacted Saturday after a friend who went with him realized Lee had not returned home. His rescue was briefly delayed while authorities waited for a search team to arrive from Los Angeles, about 300 miles to the southeast, with the right equipment and experience for the job. In the meantime, local authorities lowered Lee a helmet, food and water. Lying in the back of a pickup truck, Lee apologized. "I walked in there, and I fell. It was dark, and I didn't know when I was going to stop," he told the Union Democrat newspaper. "I'm so sorry; I'm so sorry."

Ex-Marine decries prosecution in civilian court

IRVINE, Calif. (AP)—A former Marine sergeant facing the first federal civilian prosecution of a military member accused of a war crime says there is much more at stake than his claim of innocence on charges that he killed unarmed detainees in Fallujah, Iraq. In the view of Jose Luis Nazario Jr., U.S. troops may begin to question whether they will be prosecuted by civilians for doing what their military superiors taught them to do in battle. Nazario is the first military service member who has completed his duty to be brought to trial under a law that allows the government to prosecute defense contractors, military dependents and those no longer in the military who commit crimes outside the United States. If Nazario, 28, is convicted of voluntary manslaughter, some predict damaging consequences on the battlefield.

Fairs tout green efforts, but some still struggle

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—The doughnut stand's exterior was plastic and studded with incandescent lights. It had its own humming generators. And the cold water for sale came in plastic bottles. But unlike most of the hundreds of vendors at the Illinois State Fair, The Donut Family was in contention for the fair's first-ever Green Vendor Award. Why? It served its fare in paper. At an institution where recycling became a possibility only a year ago, a vendor doing business without plastic foam is as green as it gets. It's the same across the country, as state and county fair organizers promote "going green" this summer but many are having difficulty following through. Fairs in California and Washington are ahead of the curve, installing solar panels to generate electricity and converting used cooking oil into biofuel. Others, like Missouri, are introducing recycling bins for the first time.

Asia

9 killed as Muslim rebels attack south RP villages

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels raided several southern towns Monday, burning houses and shooting and hacking to death at least nine civilians while President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo warned that the militants must quit or be crushed.

Military chief Gen. Alexander Yano said government troops have launched an offensive in response to Monday morning's attack by about 300 Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas on the coastal towns of Kolambugan and Kauswagan in Lanao del Norte province.

The escalation of fighting on Mindanao island came amid uncertainty over a fragile peace process after the Supreme Court blocked a preliminary agreement with Muslim rebels calling for an expanded autonomous region.

Michael Enat, manager of Cosmopolitan funeral homes in Iligan city, said an army truck brought the bodies of nine civilians from Kauswagan who had been shot and hacked to death.

TV footage Monday showed mayhem in one smoldering village as residents ran for cover, jumping over the fence of their roadside houses. Burned-out vehicles littered the street. A photographer said up to 100 people escaped in dozens of boats to Iligan because the main highway was blocked.

AP

Rescuers pull out an injured man as an explosion went off inside the Traveller's Inn in Iligan city, southern Philippines on Sunday Aug. 17, 2008.

A military offensive earlier this month that dislodged the rebels from several villages displaced about 80,000 residents in a nearby province, but it wasn't immediately clear how many people have fled in the latest fighting.

Arroyo told the rebels in a televised statement to withdraw immediately or they will be crushed.

"This is not just a violation of the peace agreement, but also a challenge to the overall aspirations of the people for peace and progress in the whole island of Mindanao," she said, calling the attacks "sneaky and treacherous."

"We will not tolerate and will crush any attempt to disturb peace and development in Mindanao."

Military chief Gen. Alexander Yano blamed a local rebel commander for declaring "a virtual war against the duly constituted authority." Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu confirmed the attack, but said it was carried out by a renegade commander, Abdullah Macapaar, also known as Bravo, and without the knowledge of the group's leadership.

4 Philippine soldiers, 4 militia killed in ambush

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim guerrillas killed four soldiers and four militiamen in an ambush of a military convoy Sunday in the volatile southern Philippines, officials said.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas attacked the four-vehicle army convoy near Mulondo township in Lanao del Sur province. Eight other soldiers and two pro-government militiamen were wounded and taken to hospitals by air force helicopters, he said.

The soldiers, who were traveling aboard trucks with militiamen, fired back at the attackers, who fled into a nearby forest, dragging some wounded rebels. Police and troops sent as reinforcements were pursuing the guerrillas, Lanao del Sur police Chief Paniares Adap said.

The soldiers were on their way to distribute funds to militiamen at a number of outposts when they came under attack from dozens of Muslim guerrillas, army officials said.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu confirmed that the attackers were members of the 11,000-strong rebel organization but said he was checking what triggered the attack.

"They won't attack without any justifiable ground," Kabalu told The Associated Press by telephone, adding that the group maintains many strongholds in mountainous Lanao del Sur, about 500 miles southeast of Manila.

The guerrilla attack came four days after the government ended a massive three-day assault that dislodged about 1,000 rebels from 15 predominantly Christian farming villages they had seized in southern North Cotabato province, displacing about 80,000 people.

Despite the rebel pullout from North Cotabato, a predominantly Christian province of more than a million people, military chief Gen. Alexander Yano said last week that security in the southern Mindanao region remained "volatile and fluid." Yano said the rebels could be bracing to launch attacks in other areas of Mindanao. The sprawling southern region, homeland of minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines, has been the scene of a bloody Muslim separatist insurrection that erupted in the early 1970s.

Philippine officials suspect the Muslim guerrillas detonated three bombs, all fashioned from mortar rounds, that damaged two power transmission pylons late Wednesday and wounded a suspected Muslim rebel Thursday in two North Cotabato areas. Three other unexploded bombs were found in the province late last week, police said.

The North Cotabato conflict, which the military said killed two soldiers and up to 31 rebels, erupted at a crucial juncture in peace negotiations between the government and the rebels.

World

Russia: Will begin pullout from Georgia on Monday

GORI, Georgia (AP)—Russia's president promised to start withdrawing forces from positions in Georgia on Monday, but suggested they could stay in the breakaway region at the heart of the fighting that has reignited Cold War tensions.

Top American officials said Washington would rethink its relationship with Moscow after its military drive deep into its much smaller neighbor and called for a swift Russian withdrawal.

"I think that there is a real concern that Russia has turned the corner here and is headed back toward its past rather than toward its future, and my hope is that we will see actions in the weeks and months to come that provide us some reassurance," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Sunday.

Bolstered by Western support, Georgia's leader vowed never to abandon its claim to territory now firmly in the hands of Russia and its separatist allies, even though he has few means of asserting control. His pledge, echoed by Western insistence that Georgia must not be broken apart, portends further tension over separatist South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

AP

A Russian soldier inspects armored vehicles allegedly seized by the Russians from the Georgian military, in Tskhinvali, South Ossetia, Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008.

In Gori, a strategic central city in the small former Soviet republic, there were signs of a looser Russian grip—and scenes of desperation as Georgians crowded around aid vehicles and grasped for loaves of bread.

Virtually all shops were closed and the streets almost empty, save for clusters of people who gathered around aid vehicles and a basement bakery. Georgia hit the Russia-backed separatist region of South Ossetia with a massive barrage on Aug. 7, and Russian troops rolled in, advancing far into the Caucasus Mountain nation and raising fears of a long-term occupation of a country at the center of a power struggle between a resurgent Russia and the West.

The troops would leave, a Russian lawmaker said, "sooner or later."

US, allies contemplating action against Russia

Texas (AP)—The United States on Sunday accused Russia of stalling its military pullback in Georgia, but the Bush administration is not rushing to repudiate Moscow for its actions.

The White House is struggling to figure out the best way to penalize Russia. It doesn't want to deeply damage existing cooperation on many fronts or discourage Moscow from further integrating itself into global economic and political institutions. At the same time, U.S. officials say Russia can't be allowed to get away with invading its neighbor.

Fighting broke out after Georgia launched a massive barrage Aug. 7 to try to take control of the separatist province of South Ossetia, which is heavily influenced by Russia. The Russian army quickly overwhelmed Georgia's forces, then drove deep into the country, bombed Georgian ports and military installations and tied up an east-west highway through the nation.

The New York Times, citing anonymous U.S. officials who were familiar with intelligence reports, reported Sunday that the Russian military moved missile launchers into South Ossetia on Friday.

Iraqi police: Bomber kills US-allied Sunni leader

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber dressed in a woman's robe detonated explosives Sunday in a heavily guarded Sunni area of Baghdad, killing the deputy leader of the neighborhood's U.S.-backed security volunteers who had turned against al-Qaida, Iraqi officials said.

Six bodyguards of Farooq al-Obeidi, deputy leader of the "awakening council" in Baghdad's Azamiyah district, also died in the blast.

The explosion occurred as they were seated on chairs near a checkpoint near the Abu Hanifa mosque in the former insurgent stronghold, police and Iraqi army officials said.

The assailant, wearing a black abaya robe, walked up to al-Obeidi's party and detonated the explosives, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to talk to media.

"While I was shopping just across the street, I heard a huge explosion," said Omar Qassim, a member of al-Obeidi's group. "Body parts were flying through the air. I immediately realized that Farooq's party was targeted and he was probably dead."

Zimbabweans have basis for agreement, leaders say

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Zimbabwean negotiators have the bass for a power-sharing agreement and should quickly resolve their political differenes and turn their attention to their nation's economic crisis, southernAfrican leaders said Sunday.

Zimbabwe's opposition portrayed that assessment—reached after three days of iscussions among Southern African Development Community leaders at aregional summit—as an endorsement of further talks.

But it also could be read as pressure to approve a deal despite signs the opposition and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's party have deep reservations.

The SADC's key committee on security and politics said it had reviewed a report on more than a year of mediation sponsored by the regional bloc.

In recent weeks, the negotiations had focused on trying to bring Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai into a unity government. Both appear at odds over who would wield the most power in such a government. The SADC encouraged Zimbabwean rivals "to sign any outstanding agreements as a matter of urgency to restore political stability in Zimbabwe."

Overdrive

Lexus once again tops JD Power dependability study

NEW YORK (AP)—Lexus once again stands alone atop a closely watched ranking of vehicle dependability after Buick slipped from the No. 1 spot it shared with the Japanese luxury brand last year, J.D. Power and Associates said Thursday.

AP

In this photo provided by J.D. Power and Associates, a 2005 Lexus ES330 is shown.

It's the 14th straight year Toyota Motor Corp.'s high-end brand has held the top position in the annual study, which measures problems experienced by the original owners of vehicles after three years. Lexus had 120 problems per 100 vehicles, down from 145 last year.

"That's a pretty good track record," said Dave Sargent, J.D. Power's vice president of automotive research. "They benefited to some degree ... where a couple of their very important models in their second year on the market—the ES and the RX, which together account for over two-thirds of lexus sales—both improved significantly."

Ford Motor Co.'s Mercury brand ranked second, followed by General Motors Corp.'s Cadillac. Toyota was fourth, and Honda Motor Co.'s Acura luxury brand was fifth. Land Rover, which Ford sold this year to India's Tata Motors Ltd., was the worst-performing brand, with 344 problems.

The industry average improved to 206 problems per 100 vehicles, from 216 a year ago.

Buick, owned by GM, fell to sixth place in this year's study with 163 problems, although its now-discontinued Buick Century was the top-ranked vehicle in the midsize car segment.

"The lower score is largely due to vehicles that are no longer in the marketplace," Sargent said. "The vehicles are still out there, so the study is still relevant. But obviously they had some problems."

Buick spokeswoman Debbie Frakes said J.D. Power's study is only one of several that the company focuses on.

"Obviously we're disappointed not to have been at the top, but as a brand we consistently rank high in many, many quality studies," she said.

GM's Saab brand was the most improved in this year's study, improving to 254 problems from 319. More than 60 percent of the 38 brands in the study improved from last year.

The No. 1 problem cited in the study, based on responses from more than 52,000 original owners of 2005 model-year vehicles, was wind noise, followed by noisy brakes, pulling to the left or right, dashboard issues and window fogging. The study weights all problems equally.

AP

In this photo provided by J.D.Power and Associates a 2005 Chevrolet Monte Carlo is shown.

Vehicle dependability has been steadily improving across the industry overall, Sargent said. Since the 2005 study, the industry average has improved from 237 problems per 100 vehicles to 206 this year. That equates to slightly more than two problems per vehicle.

Furthermore, the types of problems reported have trended toward "soft" problems, like funny noises or aesthetic wear, in place of "hard" problems such as major technical defects, Sargent said.

AP

In this photo provided by J.D. Power and Associates, a 2005 Buick Century is shown.

"Improved quality is good for everybody. It's good for the consumer—they don't have the annoyance of problems, they don't have the costs associated," he said. "For the manufacturer, it's obviously good news because they don't have to pay so much in warranty repairs."

Broken out by segment, Lexus took top honors in six categories for its IS 300, ES 300 and LS 300 sedans, the SC 430 coupe, and the GX 470 and LX 470 utility vehicles. Toyota led four categories and tied Honda for a fifth. Toyota's Prius hybrid was the top-ranked vehicle in the compact car segment.

Bob Carter, Toyota group vice president and general manager, said the J.D. Power results are important because they reflect the performance of cars after "real-world exposure."

He said the Prius' performance in the study signals the extent to which hybrid technology has improved since the company unveiled the car in 2000.

The technology is bulletproof, and customers understand it," Carter said. "In today's environment, the only concern I have with Prius right now is meeting expectations with availability."

Besides the Buick Century, one other GM vehicle was ranked the best in its segment: The Chevrolet Monte Carlo took the honor amid midsize sporty cars. Ford led three categories with the Crown Victoria large car, the Ford Ranger midsize pickup and the Mercury Monterey minivan.

Chrysler LLC was the only Detroit automaker with no brands ranked better than the industry average.

Chrysler spokeswoman Mary Beth Halprin said its namesake and Dodge brands improved their ranking from the 2007 study and have improved by 24 percent over the past five years.

"In the last year, significant changes have been made in the way the new Chrysler LLC works on improving quality and customer satisfaction," Halprin said in a statement. "Those changes have already had a significant impact. The cars we are selling today are greatly improved."

J.D. Power's dependability results are watched closely by automakers and are often used in advertising. Owners' opinion of a car after three years can be a major influence on their opinion to buy that brand again.

CRUISIN'

Styling changes once came fast and furious

By GREG ZYLA

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Q: Greg, I want to ask your opinion of the cars of the '50s as compared with those from other decades. It seems to me that the cars from the '50s really changed their looks every year, while today, a model might not change for three or more years.—Casper K., Washington

A: Casper, you are correct, and I also would add the '60s to the list. During these decades, Detroit would do quick facelifts and/or complete body re-designs without much trouble. Nowadays, however, the updating takes place mechanically and with much better technology than before.

As for the '50s, and taking 1957-58-59 as example years, Chrysler led the way with its "forward look" cars (which it still promotes to this day), and all three years resulted in cars that looked nothing like the prior years. In the General Motors camp, Chevy is a good example, as is Buick. I really love the '58 and '59 Buicks, and the '60 model, too. As for Chrysler, it made huge design changes from 1954 through 1957, while over at Ford, the big change years came in 1957-59, in my opinion.

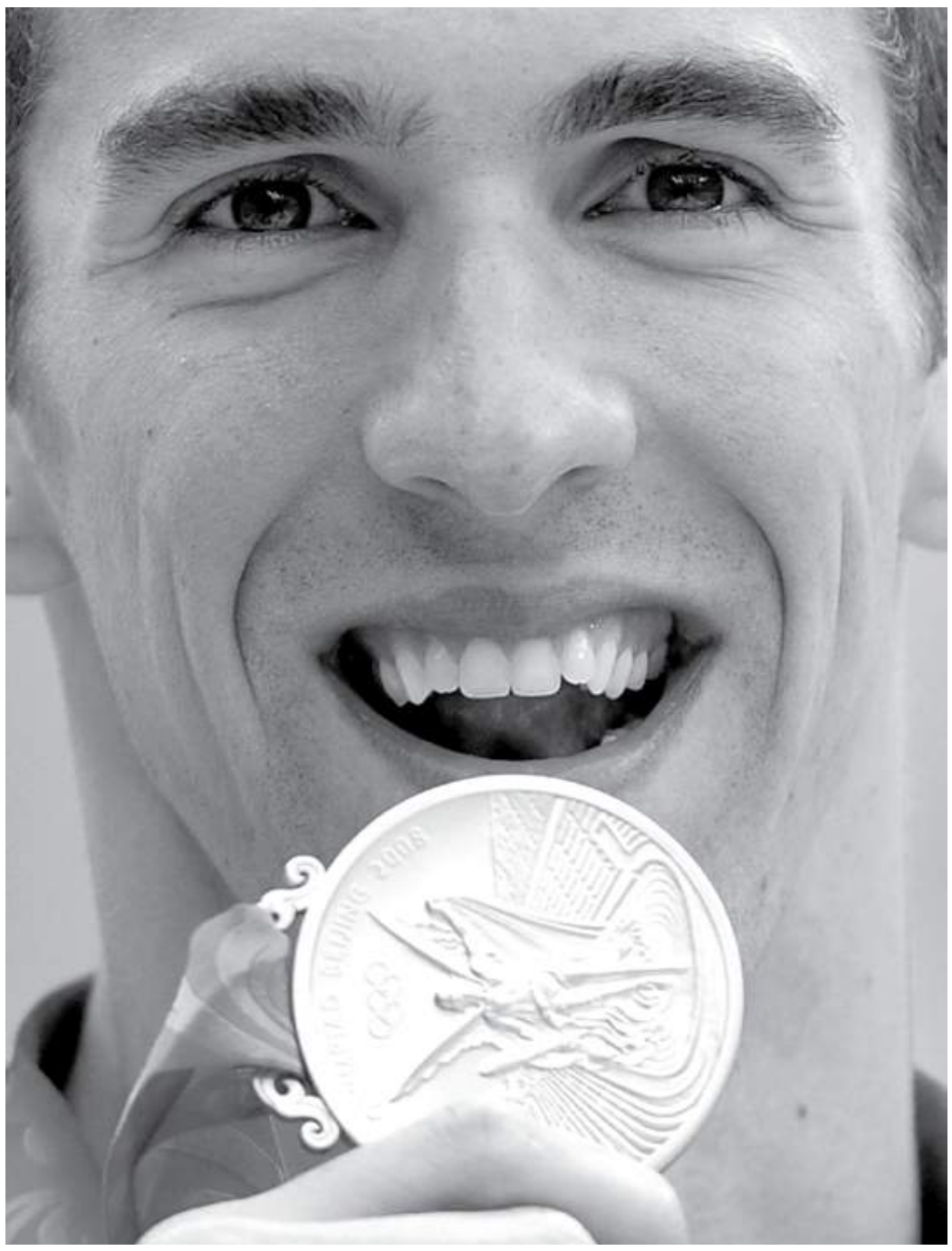
Studebaker, as a great example, re-skinned its poor-selling 1958 model with a Lark body for '59, and it saved the company for a few more years. The '60s were similar, too. But always remember that these changes were mostly skin deep, and nothing like today's high-tech wonders.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

Joys, burdens of being best face Phelps now

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP NATIONAL WRITER



AP
United States' Michael Phelps shows the gold medal after the men's 100-meter butterfly final during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Saturday, Aug. 16, 2008.

He stood, literally, on top of the world: Everest. The highest mountain on earth.

"Another few weary steps and there was nothing above us but the sky," Sir Edmund Hillary wrote of that moment in 1953 when he and guide Tenzing Norgay became the first to the zenith.

Harder to put into words was what it meant to be first, foremost—on that day the best among mankind. The New Zealander spoke of confused emotions: "awe, wonder, humility, pride, exaltation."

Gen. Chuck Yeager uses words like "duty" and "luck," even, to recall the morning, the desert and the little X-1 rocket plane in which he hurtled past the sound barrier—Mach .88, then .96 and finally—that BOOM!—1.06.

"A poke through Jell-0," he shrugged. "Right place, right time," he said in an interview last week with The Associated Press.

Understatements for what it means to be the Superman of your day.

Now, a Superman in a Speedo has redefined Greatness. And in this case—as with Hillary, as with Yeager, as with all who comprise this fraternity of uber-overachievers—isn't the capital G a must?

"It's time to be the best ever," a friend texted our new hero before he became just that

Winningest Olympian. Not just the best.

But The Best.

Ever.

Welcome to the fraternity, Michael Phelps.

Hardly any of us will ever know the secret handshake, what it's like to link that "-est" to our names: Strong-est, fast-est, rich-est, smart-est. B-E-S-T. To be the Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods, the Bill Gates or Stephen Hawking of our chosen fields.

Rather, we strive to be the best we can be—and that, certainly, can be a kind of greatness. But the best? Ever? It's impossible to fathom, what it's like, how it feels, the metamorphosis from mere mortal to, as a headline called Phelps, "a god."

There is the joy, yes.

Consider Woods the day after he became the youngest player, at 21, to win the Masters. "I'm still on cloud nine ...," he said. "My (green) jacket? I slept with it last night."

Gates, in his book "The Road Ahead," wrote: "To this day it thrills me to know that if I can get the program right it will always work perfectly, every time, just the way I told it to. Experiencing this thrill was the beginning of my fascination with software."

And Hawking, the British astrophysicist whose genius in the field of black holes and the origins of the universe endures, despite a debilitating affliction: "There's nothing like the eureka moment of discovering something that no one knew before. I won't compare it to sex, but it lasts longer." There are the accolades, fame and fortune that accompany brilliance of mind or body. The Nike Air Jordans. A magazine that requires no more than an initial—"O"—to identify its namesake.

As Oprah Winfrey herself says: "My feet are still on the ground. I'm just wearing better shoes."

"Simply the best," sings another great, Tina Turner. But could there be anything less simple?

"I've read that I flew up the hills and mountains of France. But you don't fly up a hill. You struggle slowly and painfully ... , and maybe, if you work very hard, you get to the top ahead of everybody else," seven-time Tour de France champion and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong wrote.

J. Craig Venter, co-mapper of the human genome, says that when he watches Phelps he thinks about the drive and the labor it takes to get to the pinnacle the world sees.

"What is behind it is the years of passion and dedication and hard work," he says.

Branded a "dummy" by a teacher, Dr. Ben Carson became a top pediatric neurosurgeon. To be recognized as "being near or at the top certainly requires an enormous amount of time and effort, and it doesn't come without collateral cost," he says. "It's not a 9-to-5 job. Something, elsewhere, is going to have to suffer."

The so-called price of fame. Even we, on the outside looking in, know how high that price can be.

We see the marriages that dissolve. The run-ins with the law. And the falls, those spectacularly disappointing falls from glory.

Barry Bonds, baseball's all-time home run king, facing a criminal trial on charges of lying to a grand jury. With him and some other greats, allegations about performance-enhancing drugs were central. Mark McGwire, who broke the single-season home run record, getting snubbed by baseball's Hall of Fame. Track star Marion Jones relinquishing her Olympic gold medals and heading to prison.

"As I stood in front of all of you for years in victory, I stand in front of you today," said Jones, the day of her sentencing for lying to investigators about drugs. "Learn from my mistakes," she said, fighting tears.

The glare of the spotlight is harsh, and the pressure that success breeds immense. We revere our heroes, but expect much. And criticism can come as easily as praise. (You thought Shakespeare was a sure-thing Great? Consider Voltaire's view: "a drunken savage ... whose plays please only in London and Canada.")

Beethoven felt the weight of his success, so much so that he tried to hide from the world that he was going deaf. "Ah how could I possibly admit such an infirmity in the one sense which should have been more perfect in me than in others," the great composer once wrote.

Tennis champion Pete Sampras referred to the "huge bull's-eye permanently tattooed on my back," in describing what happened after he became the youngest U.S. Open champion and an instant 19-year-old millionaire. In his book, "A Champion's Mind," he wrote:

"Soon I would have to deal with something I had not known in my entire life: pressure. The pressure to defend my position, the pressure to carry myself like a man and champion, the pressure to meet demands and obligations that came with my new station and wealth, the pressure to take on the obligations that come with being a `professional' anything, and, most demanding of all, the pressure to win, day after day, round after round, to hold my new position and potentially improve on it."

He nevertheless won a record-setting 14 Grand Slam titles.

Before the Beijing Olympics, champion swimmer Mark Spitz felt sure that Phelps would likely eclipse his own record (and that of Carl Lewis, Finnish track and field star Paavo Nurmi and Soviet gymnast Larysa Latynina) to become the most decorated Olympian in history.

On Sunday, Phelps won his eighth gold at Beijing, most ever collected at a single Summer Olympics. His 14 career golds put him five ahead of anyone else.

Spitz had wished him well, predicting "a success story for all time's sake."

Of these torch-passings, he added: "Let him have that monkey on his back for the next 25, 30, 35 years. It's not an easy thing."

At 14, even Sameer Mishra quickly grasped the burden of being best.

In the Scripps National Spelling Bee this past May, the boy from West Lafayette, Ind., aced "guerdon" to win. The word means "something that one has earned or gained."

He had certainly earned his moment in the spotlight and he relished the pure bliss that flooded him, the flashing of the photographer's cameras, the TV appearances: "Regis and Kelly," "Jimmy Kimmel," CNN, ESPN. He met President Bush in the Oval Office. And, as Sameer notes, "most of my friends thought I was a lot cooler, I guess."

But now when he gets recognized at the Kroger store, he can't help but think, "Not this again." He can't wait for next spring when he'll give up the mantle of greatness to the next spelling bee champion.

"It would kind of just be nice to be a regular person again," he says.

Isn't there always someone waiting in the wings? Someone even stronger, faster, richer, smarter?

"It's life, isn't it?" said Katharine Hepburn, who won a record-setting four Oscars for a leading role. "You plow ahead and make a hit. And you plow on and someone passes you. Then someone passes them. Time levels."

Some—the Favres and Jordans of the world—may try for still more hits, retiring only to change their minds, because what drove them to succeed still drives them.

Some may never stop until death steals the decision. Dr. Michael DeBakey, the pioneering heart surgeon who performed more than 60,000 cardiovascular procedures, trained more than 1,000 surgeons, wrote more than 1,400 articles or books and received 50 honorary degrees, still frequented the hospital until his death this year at 99.

"When you think of life as a living, active process, I don't think it's a pleasurable activity unless you have some challenge in that life—no matter what it is," he once said. "I think, in a way, that is the philosophy of life."

Some remake those lives. Spitz became a stockbroker, heavyweight champion George Foreman a heavyweight salesman of kitchen grills. "When I'm with a group of kids now, they just yell out, `That's the cooking man,'" Foreman has said.

Some, like Yeager, may always be recognized wherever they go.

"I walk down the streets of San Francisco, and every kid ... recognizes me and stops me and says hello. You know, that's really a wonderful thing," the 85-year-old said last week.

Some may fade into obscurity, while with some, time only makes the legacy greater. "He knows how great he is, but at the same time he's very humble," Hana Ali said of her father, Muhammad, when the boxing champion, now ravaged by Parkinson's disease, turned 65 last year. "He's shocked to see how people still love him and remember him. You see his eyes light up, and it takes him back a moment when they chant, `Ali, Ali.' It's like charging a battery up."

However it unfolds, the Greats always carry with them the moment that started it all, the time when they scaled their respective mountaintops.

Phelps' mountain is the Olympic podium. His glory, for now, is reflected in gold. A lot of gold.

As with Hillary, Phelps' joy isn't so easily put into words. He stands on top of the world, uttering "Wow" and "Pretty cool," while the rest of us look up in sheer awe and try to put ourselves on the mountain, too, imagining what it really is like to stand there.

What it really is like to be him.

The Best.

Ever.

Or, at least, for now.

Whaddaya make of Larry King's longevity?

By ROBIN GIVHAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Larry King is a pop-culture artifact. He is a reminder of a time before interviewers betrayed their point of view, their agenda or even their personality. King is an interviewer. He's all about the questions—even if he occasionally gets a bit confused about who it is he's actually talking to. His quest is not for the truth behind a lie; he offers modestly engaging chatter to fill the dead space.

King has an interview style that is peculiar to him. His questioning often boils down to a single query that he can apply to all situations, whether it is the conflict in Georgia, the presidential election, a UFO sighting or Paris Hilton's jail time: "Whaddaya make of it?"

Dressed for radio in his trademark suspenders, King coughs up the question as he hunches over his desk with its prop microphone. It is often his opening query, and it elicits everything from talking points and cliches to stream-of-consciousness ramblings from those so unaccustomed to invitations to blithely babble that they don't know when it's in their interest to stop talking.

With his CNN show "Larry King Live," he stands out on cable television because unlike his fellow hosts, he doesn't display a political philosophy. He doesn't present himself as representing either the left or the right. And as a result, he doesn't come off like the crazy neighbor you make it your business to avoid.

A variety of reasons can explain a talk show host's popularity. Oprah Winfrey gives audiences the impression that she is wrapping her guests in a warm and supportive hug. The folks on her stage may be revealing profoundly personal or embarrassing details of their lives, but Winfrey reassures them that their honesty in front of her multitude of viewers is surely helping some lost soul out there in TV land.

TV talk show host Larry King coughs up a question as he hunches over his desk with its prop microphone.

Charlie Rose is the conversationalist. He makes virtually every guest sound not merely articulate, but also wise and thoughtful. In 1997, Rose memorably interviewed the actor Sylvester Stallone about his film "Cop Land." So snappy was the questioning and ensuing conversation that Stallone, whom audiences had grown accustomed to seeing portrayed as little more than a musclehead, came across as erudite.

And while Tyra Banks has a disconcerting tendency for titillation, her style of questioning combines adult interests with the unembarrassed probing of a toddler. Thus she was willing to ask the singer Ray J about his relationships with Lil' Kim and Whitney Houston, including whether he had sex with either of them.

Recently we began trying to figure out what makes King, who has one of the top-rated programs on CNN, so popular. We began obsessing about him because over the past few months he has hosted a particularly wide-ranging series of shows. All have been captivating, but not always for the best of reasons. His unemotional questioning of prisoners inside the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women was laudable as it prevented the women from being seen as either victims or monsters. They were, quite simply, criminals.

But then there was the interview with the women from the polygamist community in Texas. They were a blur of modest-looking white women in prim dresses and rolled hair. Wives, daughters, sisters, whatever. King couldn't keep them all straight, and the fact that he didn't seem the least bit bothered by the confusion made the episode all the more fascinating. Before beginning his interview with the four members of Motley Crue, he introduced them as "my pals," which had the ring of a really uncool kid wanting to be cool by association. And during a tribute to comedian Bernie Mac, his introduction of actor Ashton Kutcher sounded suspiciously like "Austin Kutcher."

Like a lot of political talk shows, King will assemble a roundtable to analyze a particular issue, but his topics could be anything from the John Edwards affair to the death of George Carlin or Kanye West's mother after cosmetic surgery. It doesn't really matter. King takes the same tone regardless. He does not have interludes of wry humor like Anderson Cooper. He doesn't have moments when he tries to go all Mensa like Fareed Zakaria. He is not the star of his own show; the guest is the focus of attention.

He doesn't get tangled up in long-winded observations or wordy preludes to a question. He doesn't engage in humorous repartee with a guest—or maybe he does and it's just not funny. King is always plodding on to the next question, which, as often as not, will have little to do with the one that preceded it. By modern standards, King is boring.

But at 74, he is also a symbol of continuity, and that may ultimately explain his popularity. We watch because that's what we've always done. And there are few things we can say that about. He reminds us that the past has not been completely dumped overboard.

We are not declaring 74 old. People run road races at that age, after all. But King plays the role of the "old man," the sort of fellow who'd mumble: Kids these days! He emphasizes his long resume not as a sign of his experience, but rather his longevity.

King isn't breaking new ground as an interviewer; he's turning old age to his advantage.

Shearer mines gold with off-air video clips

NEW YORK (AP)—As the red light switched off and her program went into a commercial, Laura Ingraham's face dissolved from a smile into a frown—then, a look of pure disgust

In a nine-minute video clip of on-set behavior at Fox News Channel, Ingraham radiates hate at everyone around her. There's a word misspelled on her teleprompter, her script makes no sense, a stranger hanging around annoys her, a producer is talking too loudly in her earpiece.

"Oh, my God," she says. "This is a train wreck."

It wasn't the only locomotive going off the rails, particularly after comic Harry Shearer posted the visual evidence on his Internet channel last month and it spread virally across the Web. Those who don't like Ingraham's politics had something to ridicule her for; others had reason to question the sincerity behind her smile.

Shearer's "Found Objects," a semi-regular feature of the "My Damn Channel" Web site, is a place where news personalities don't want to find themselves.

His videos capture them in that television netherworld: on set or on location but before (they might think) the cameras are rolling. It's the time that obsessions about hairstyles or worries that they've done their homework surface—or when real personalities bubble through the makeup.

If anyone should realize that the camera is never really off, it's the people who make their living in front of it.

When they forget, Shearer has his material.

The first posting last fall was an excruciating 17-minute video of former CBS News anchor Dan Rather on a chilly rooftop in Seattle, obsessing over whether to wear an overcoat during a standup, or whether the coat's collar should be turned up or down.

A month later Rather's successor, Katie Couric, turned up online from a remote location, makeup people hovering around her. She purposely fiddled with her coat. "I'm going to be like Dan Rather on YouTube," she joked. "Geez, don't you think he deserves a little payback? This tart is ready to go!"

Shearer

(Rather had been quoted as saying CBS had tried to "tart" up his old "CBS Evening News" after Couric took over.)

Shearer has been fascinated by such moments for decades, ever since he saw a tape of Richard Nixon shortly before he announced to a nationwide television audience in 1974 that he was resigning as president. His years working on "Saturday Night Live" at NBC's Rockefeller Center headquarters gave Shearer access to video outtakes from around the world.

"Some people collect coins," said Rob Barnett, a former MTV Networks executive who's president of My Damn Channel. "I collect vinyl albums. Harry collects this footage."

Shearer, the Spinal Tap bassist who's just released a disc of parody songs where he impersonates Bush administration members, won't talk about his sources for the material. A powerful satellite dish might collect some. And it's not hard to imagine some technician who'd been berated by Ingraham being tempted to take revenge by slipping Shearer some video.

One popular "Found Objects" feature is the "silent debates." Shearer collects footage of politicians and journalists waiting quietly on camera for an event to begin; he fashions them into "debates," where one participant appears to smile in response to someone else's silent gesture.

"Found Objects" taps into the insatiable appetite people have for witnessing their favorite personalities in moments they're not supposed to. If a video camera were installed in Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's home, Barnett admitted he'd rush to watch it—even if it just showed the stars eating corn flakes or taking out the garbage.

"There's a combination of reality and voyeurism that captures the imagination," Barnett said.

There was a brief moment of panic for Barnett until his lawyers assured him the material could be legally used. Shearer said the only complaint he's heard about such footage came when he used some for Comedy Central and a cease and desist order was sent on behalf of Diane Sawyer.

Shearer tries not to overdo it, posting videos only occasionally.

A video of Couric off-air before a New Hampshire primary report on CBS had her joking about her voice, swearing in frustration and admitting to a weird fascination with Cindy McCain's eyes. Some viewers saw a vapid, out-of-control diva. Yet one person wrote on the Gawker Web site: "If Katie was this entertaining when she was actually on the air, I might even watch her little newscast."

Guess who took the hint?

Weeks later, Couric quietly started her own Internet network. "It's nice to be on YouTube when I know the cameras are rolling. Harry Shearer, I'm gonna get you!" she joked on her first video.

Initially designed as an outlet for segments of Couric's interviews with presidential candidates that didn't make it on the air, Couric now posts occasional behind-the-scenes videos—before she appeared on "Larry King Live" and when she sang with Bette Midler, for instance. Her most recent video shows Couric and her colleagues waiting in Jordan for Barack Obama to appear for an interview.

Many of the postings reveal a more playful Couric than she appears on the evening news, the Couric many viewers fondly remember from the "Today" show.

If you can't beat Harry Shearer, join him.

‘Thunder’ rumbles past ‘Dark Knight’ with $26M

AP

In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Ben Stiller, left, and Robert Downey Jr. are shown in a scene from, “Tropic Thunder.”

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It took four of Hollywood’s biggest stars to take down Batman. The DreamWorks-Paramount comedy “Tropic Thunder”—with Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr., Jack Black and Tom Cruise—debuted at No. 1 with $26 million, bumping “The Dark Knight” to second place after four weekends on top, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Warner Bros. Batman flick pulled in $16.8 million to raise its total to $471.5 million. “The Dark Knight” passed the original “Star Wars” ($461 million) and now stands as No. 2 on the all-time domestic charts, behind only “Titanic” ($600.8 million).

Taking inflation into account, “The Dark Knight” trails both movies in actual tickets sold, however. “The Dark Knight” would need to gross about $900 million to match the number of admissions for “Titanic” and about $1.2 billion to equal “Star Wars.”

Warner Bros. expects “The Dark Knight” to top out at about $530 million domestically, said Dan Fellman, the studio’s head of distribution.

“The Dark Knight” managed to fend off another “Star Wars” movie this weekend. The animated tale “Star Wars: The Clone Wars,” also released by Warner Bros., opened at No. 3 with $15.5 million.

Families made up two-thirds of the audience for “Clone Wars,” Fellman said. “Star Wars” creator George Lucas, who has an executive producer credit on “Clone Wars,” intended the movie as an introduction to his “Clone Wars” TV show debuting this fall on the Cartoon Network.

“It was targeted to a specific audience for specific reasons,” Fellman said. “We accomplished that mission, and it will continue in another medium.”

“Tropic Thunder” was the third R-rated comedy to open solidly in recent weeks, following “Pineapple Express” and “Step Brothers.” Most summer comedies are rated PG-13, since an R rating limits the audience by requiring anyone younger than 17 to come with an adult.

R-rated comedy hits tend to open in the $20 million to $30 million range, lower than their PG-13 counterparts, but often have a longer shelf life in theaters as audiences spread the word. R-rated movies such as “The 40-Year-Old Virgin,” “Knocked Up” and “Superbad” all opened around those levels and went on to become $100 million hits.

“We’re thrilled, quite frankly. It played out exactly how we hoped,” said DreamWorks spokesman Chip Sullivan.

Stiller directed and co-wrote “Tropic Thunder,” in which he stars with Downey and Black as pampered actors who find themselves in a real combat situation while shooting a Vietnam War epic in the Asian jungles. Cruise co-stars as a bald, egomaniacal studio boss.

1. “Tropic Thunder,” $26 million.
2. “The Dark Knight,” $16.8 million.
3. “Star Wars: The Clone Wars,” $15.5 million.
4. “Mirrors,” $11.1 million.
5. “Pineapple Express,” $10 million.
6. “The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor,” $8.6 million.
7. “Mamma Mia!”, $6.5 million.
8. “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2,” $5.9 million.
9. “Step Brothers,” $5 million.
10. “Vicky Cristina Barcelona,” $3.7 million.

“Tropic Thunder” raised its total to $37 million since opening Wednesday.

The 20th Century Fox horror tale “Mirrors,” starring Kiefer Sutherland as a security guard whose family is terrorized by spirits, opened at No. 4 with $11.1 million.

Woody Allen returned to commercial form with his Spanish romance “Vicky Cristina Barcelona,” which opened at No. 10 with $3.7 million.

The movie played in narrower release, 692 theaters compared with 3,000-plus for “Tropic Thunder” and “Clone Wars.” Still, it opened far wider than most Allen films, which usually start in a handful of theaters and gradually expand.

“You never can predict how something’s going to do, but we felt that the movie is so strong, we just needed to get it out there,” said Harvey Weinstein, whose Weinstein Co. released the movie under its distribution agreement with MGM. “The audience reaction is terrific.”

Summit Entertainment’s “Fly Me to the Moon,” a 3-D animated tale about three flies that tag along on the Apollo 11 moon landing, debuted in 452 theaters and took in $2 million, finishing at No. 12.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Hall of Fame goes on the road to New York

NEW YORK (AP)—The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is going on the road to New York—the city that spawned hip-hop and gave Bob Dylan and the Ramones their start.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Wednesday that the Cleveland-based museum is opening an annex in downtown Manhattan. It is the first of several planned outposts that will take its collection of artifacts to a wider audience, possibly as far as the Middle East.

Billy Joel and Clive Davis joined the mayor at the location in SoHo where the branch will open in November. Joel, who said he was donating some memorabilia to the museum, recalled how he has played every New York venue from Carnegie Hall to Shea Stadium.

“New York gave me my words and my music, and rock and roll gave me a place for that music to live,” Joel said.

The 25,000-square-foot annex will house Bruce Springsteen’s 1957 Chevy and will feature a number of different exhibits, including one with sites around the city that have musical significance.

“There really isn’t a more fitting spot for this museum than New York, the hometown of hall of famers like the Velvet Underground, Paul Simon and Blondie ... this is where Ed Sullivan met the Beatles, where Lou Reed took a walk on the wild side,” Bloomberg said.

Museum officials are counting on the branches to provide new revenue streams, attract more philanthropy dollars and entice more people to visit the hall of fame in Cleveland.

Another annex being planned for Las Vegas will be located on or near the Strip and will be less focused on rock artifacts and more entertainment oriented, according to Terry Stewart, president and CEO of the rock museum. A city has not been selected for the proposed Middle East branch.

The annexes mark the museum’s first effort to build a presence outside of Cleveland. The concept follows a trend set by other museums like the Guggenheim and the Louvre, and comes in a year when the hall has announced some notable changes, including a major interior renovation of its lakefront museum and the return of the induction ceremony to Cleveland in 2009 after more than a decade-long absence. Most of the ceremonies had been held in New York City.

The New York annex will be open for a minimum of two years, longer if it proves successful. It’s backed financially by Running Subway Productions, a New York-based entertainment company known for “Bodies ... The Exhibition” and the Broadway production of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!”

Among the planned exhibits is “New York Rocks,” which is dedicated to Big Apple artists such as Joel and the Talking Heads’ David Byrne. The exhibit will feature an interactive map of musically significant Manhattan locations such as Studio 54 and the landmarked Chelsea Hotel, whose guests and residents have included many famous artists and musicians including the Sex Pistols’ Sid Vicious. The front awning and cash register of the recently closed club CBGB will be on display.

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Star Wars: The Clone Wars
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:15 4:05 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:15 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG
Synopsis
As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences, one that brings them face-to-face with crime lord Jabba the Hutt.

Mirrors
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:30
Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
A man is head of security at a department store plagued by unexplained deaths. The store is also the target of demonstrators wanting compensation for an earlier staff fire tragedy. The man becomes intrigued by a disturbed woman. She claims her sister, who died in the fire, is exacting revenge, using mirrors as a gateway back into the living world.

Tropic Thunder
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
A group of self-absorbed actors set out to make the biggest war film ever. After ballooning costs (and the out of control egos of the pampered cast) threaten to shut down the movie, the frustrated director refuses to stop shooting, leading his cast deep into the jungles of Southeast Asia for "increased realism," where they inadvertently encounter real bad guys.

★ ★ ★

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
Friday 4:15 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:15 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:15 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:05
Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Pineapple Express
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Dark Knight
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia
Friday 4:10 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:20
Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated PG 13

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Reports: DeGeneres and de Rossi wed in Calif.

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—There was much dancing: Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi are married, according to reports.

In the biggest celebrity union since California legalized same-sex marriage, DeGeneres, 50, and de Rossi, 35, wed Saturday night in an intimate ceremony at their Beverly Hills home, People and Us Magazine reported.

A publicist for DeGeneres didn't respond to messages left by The Associated Press on Saturday and Sunday.

After the California Supreme Court's ruling in May, the talk-show host announced that she and de Rossi would wed after four years together.

The ceremony was attended by 19 guests, including DeGeneres' mom, Betty, and de Rossi's mother, Margaret Rogers, who had flown in from Australia, People.com reported Saturday night.

DeGeneres said after winning her fourth consecutive Daytime Emmy for talk show host in June that a date had not been set, and that she would show "a tiny bit" of the nuptials on her show.

AP

In this April 26, 2008 file photo, Actress Portia de Rossi, left, and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres arrive at the 19th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles.

While opponents in California have gathered signatures to put a measure on the November ballot for a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, Hollywood was throwing its support behind the newlyweds.

"One of my favorite people of all time is Ms. Ellen DeGeneres," Katherine Heigl, star of "Grey's Anatomy," told Associated Press Television News at a Hollywood charity event on Saturday night. "So I wish all the best, all the happiness, all the joy that comes with that certificate ... just the joy of being able to stand up and say that. In front of everyone you love and care about in front of each other and to walk away legal is huge." Tila Tequila, whose dating reality show fame is built somewhat on her affinity for both men and women, passed along her good wishes—with only one small complaint.

"I love Ellen (DeGeneres); I watch her show all the time," Tequila told APTN. "I just want to say congratulations, and I am really sorry you didn't invite me to your wedding."

America Ferrera, 'Ugly Betty' win ALMA Awards

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—"Ugly Betty" and its star, America Ferrera, took top honors Sunday at the 2008 ALMA Awards, which recognize achievements by Hispanic artists.

The ABC comedy series won awards for directing and best performance by a Latino-led ensemble cast. Ferrera, 24, was named Chevy Entertainer of the Year for her on-screen work as Betty Suarez in "Ugly Betty" and her off-screen efforts to encourage young people to get involved in the political process.

Shakira was also recognized for her offstage efforts, receiving the Humanitarian Award for her work in early childhood education.

A host of artists, including BeBe Winans, Wynonna Judd and Lucero, performed a tribute to Linda Ronstadt, who received the Trailblazer Award for her contributions to American music. The Black Eyed Peas, the Cheetah Girls, Sergio Mendes and Cheech and Chong also performed at the ceremony, hosted by Eva Longoria Parker at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

Other acting-award winners included Charlie Sheen, Edward James Olmos, Roselyn Sanchez and Judy Reyes. Designer Narciso Rodriguez was honored for special achievement in fashion.

The National Council of La Raza, the country's largest Hispanic advocacy organization, created the ALMA Awards in 1995 to honor Hispanic performers and promote positive images of Hispanics in entertainment. ALMA stands for American Latino Media Arts and also means "soul" in Spanish.

The ceremony will be televised Sept. 12 on ABC.

America Ferrera, a cast member in "Ugly Betty," poses backstage with an award for Special Achivement - Outstanding Performance of a Latino-Led Ensemble in a Television Series at the 2008 ALMA Awards in Pasadena, Calif., Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008.

AP

Indian movie superstars end US leg of live tour

NEW YORK (AP)—For most people, going on an international tour with hours of rehearsals, a cast of more than 100, and 20 tons of props and sets may not seem like the best way for a family to bond.

But for India's first family of acting, it's been quality time the likes of which they haven't had in years.

Superstar Indian actors Amitabh Bachchan, his son Abhishek Bachchan and daughter-in-law Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, along with other Indian movie stars including Preity Zinta, Madhuri Dixit and Riteish Deshmukh have spent the past few weeks touring the United States on "The Unforgettable Tour." The production is a showcase of hit songs from India's massive film industry known as Bollywood.

Given the hectic pace of their usual filmmaking schedules, the tour has provided an unusual opportunity for them to spend some time together, Abhishek Bachchan said.

"Because of the nature of the business, there's a lot of travel involved, odd hours. There've been times we all live under the same roof but we haven't seen each other for days on end," Bachchan, 32, said. "It's wonderful ... to get an opportunity to spend six weeks on the road with the family, I don't think we've spent this amount of time and this quality of time for over 10 years together."

AP

Bollywood Superstar Madhuri Dixit, right, speaks as Amitabh Bachchan listens during a news conference Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008 in New York.

The tour, which started in Toronto and played a show in Trinidad before making its way to five cities around the United States, has its last U.S. date on Friday on suburban Long Island before heading off to Europe for its last three shows.

It's played at packed houses as fans eagerly came to see their favorites take the stage to perform the elaborate musical numbers that have always been an integral part of Indian movies.

Firm message, kind manner deters persistent solicitors

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Hounded in British Columbia" (May 22) asked you how to discourage religious solicitors. What many people may not realize is that once you accept a piece of literature or have a long conversation with the person, that person will note your name and address so they can "return visit" you. Then not only will you be visited by others in their religion, but the person who gave you the literature will start calling on you regularly, hoping to engage you in future religious conversations and Bible study.

The most effective way to discourage these visits is to politely state you're not interested as quickly as possible. Do not take any literature or engage in any discussion if you don't want them to return. You should also tell them to note on their "territory card" that you want no more calls at your house in the future. This can be done kindly and with a smile.

DOOR KNOCKER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DOOR KNOCKER: Thank you for the inside information. Requesting that you be placed on the "No Call" list seems simple enough and can be done politely. The solicitors are supposed to honor the request of those who ask not to be called on anymore. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was faithful going door-to-door representing my church. And I agree that people have to be firm with someone who is truly hounding them. These solicitors believe they are doing the will of God and are taught that they may be "persecuted" for their faith. Some are chastised for not doing enough "soul searching," as they call it.

I can no longer stand going door-to-door, but people who do it deserve respect and a straightforward answer.

FORMER RELIGIOUS SOLICITOR

DEAR FORMER RELIGIOUS SOLICITOR: Then it's clear to you how offended some people become when some solicitors won't take "no" for an answer. Many readers offered solutions to handling the intrusion – including humor. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: May I share my method? As soon as I heard the words "Jehovah's Witness," I simply said, "I'm sorry, but I didn't see the accident," and closed my door

AMY IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR ABBY: I told the solicitors I would gladly listen to everything they had to say for 50 minutes, and I charge only $40. Cash, please. As first they were confused, but I explained that this is what my time is worth. They not only went away, they never returned.

JUDY IN NEVADA

DEAR ABBY: We hung this sign on our front door, "We love our vacuum, we've found God, and we gave at the office!" This worked for us.

LESLIE IN THE WEST

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine had a unique solution to dissuade religious visitors from dropping by. She told them she was a practicing witch. She said they couldn't leave fast enough.

CINDY IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I got those unwelcome visitors every few weeks. We told them politely we weren't interested, but they kept returning. One day, the bell rang as I was getting out of the shower. I answered the door wearing only a towel, stepped back, spread my arms and did my best imitation of Bob Barker, "COME ONNN INNN!"

They jumped back and beat a hasty retreat. When my wife came home she said it was an awful thing to do ... but we were never bothered again.

UNREPENTANT IN RIDGECREST, CALIF.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK AT THIS BATHROOM! WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU DOING?!
NOTHING, DAD! I WAS JUST IN HERE LOOKING FOR SOME DENTAL FLOSS, WHEN PLOOIE! THE FAUCET HANDLE BLOWS SKY HIGH ALL BY ITSELF! IT... IT... UH...
WHAT I MEAN IS, HOBBES WAS FOOLING AROUND WITH YOUR TOOLS. I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN, AND SURE ENOUGH, HE WENT AND... AND...
ONE MORE TRY.
ALIENS, DAD! BIG, EVIL, BUG-EYED MONSTERS FROM PLUTO! THEY DID IT, AND MADE ME SWEAR NOT TO TELL!
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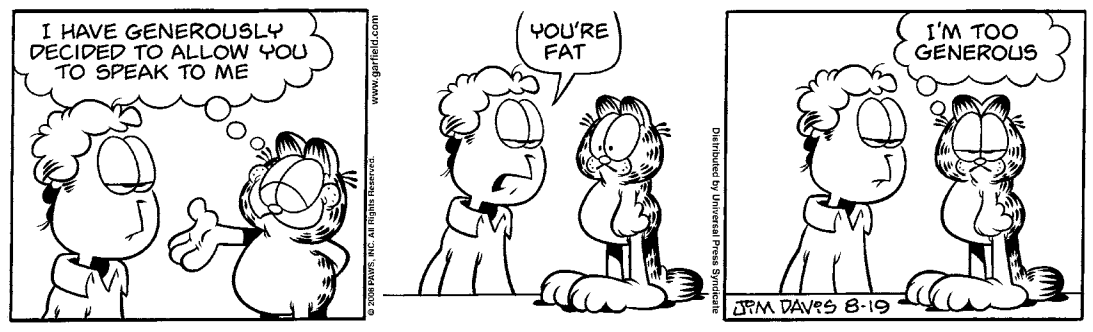
WATTERSON
8/19

Garfield®

By Jim Davis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JIM DAVIS 8-19

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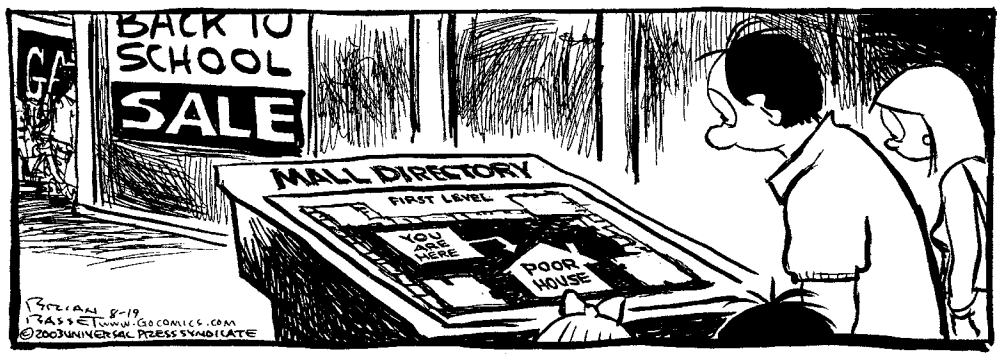
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ARE WE READY?
YEAH. I'LL HAVE THE "ROOTY-TOOTY FRESH N' FRUITY" BREAKFAST.
WAIT, ENO. DID YOU LOOK AT THE PRICE OF THAT MEAL?
YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT. ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAKE THAT THE "COLD N' CLAMMY GRAY N' SPAMMY" BREAKFAST.
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2008©
8/19

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

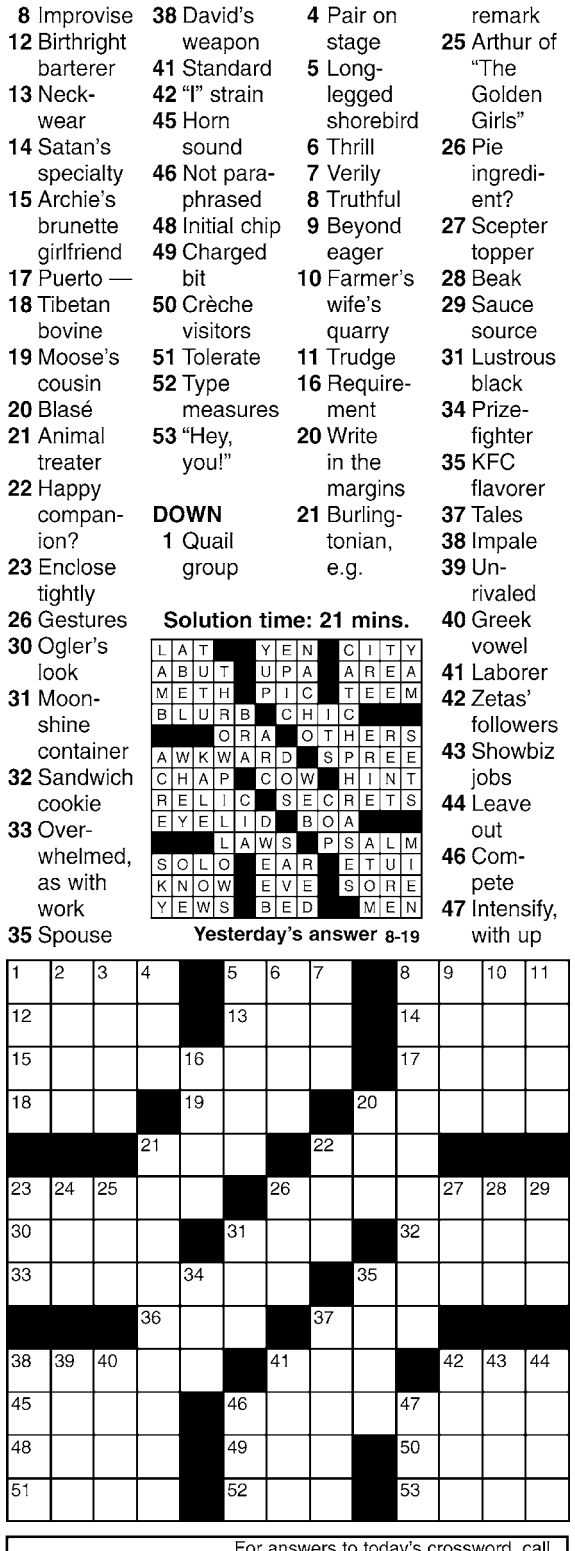
ACROSS
1 Hairless
5 The air up there
8 Improvise
12 Birthright barterer
13 Neckwear
14 Satan's specialty
15 Archie's brunette girlfriend
17 Puerto —
18 Tibetan bovine
19 Moose's cousin
20 Blasé
21 Animal treater
22 Happy companion?
23 Enclose tightly
26 Gestures
30 Ogler's look
31 Moonshine container
32 Sandwich cookie
33 Overwhelmed, as with work
35 Spouse
36 Chic no longer
37 "Of course"
38 David's weapon
41 Standard
42 "I" strain
45 Horn sound
46 Not paraphrased
48 Initial chip
49 Charged bit
50 Crèche visitors
51 Tolerate
52 Type measures
53 "Hey, you!"

DOWN
1 Quail group
2 On the briny
3 Quest for adventure
4 Pair on stage
5 Long-legged shorebird
6 Thrill
7 Verily
8 Truthful
9 Beyond eager
10 Farmer's wife's quarry
11 Trudge
16 Requirement
20 Write in the margins
21 Burlingtonian, e.g.
22 Pooch
23 Golfer Ernie
24 Kitten's remark
25 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
26 Pie ingredient?
27 Scepter topper
28 Beak
29 Sauce source
31 Lustrous black
34 Prizefighter
35 KFC flavorer
37 Tales
38 Impale
39 Unrivaled
40 Greek vowel
41 Laborer
42 Zetas' followers
43 Showbiz jobs
44 Leave out
46 Compete
47 Intensify, with up

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	T			Y	E	N		C	I	T	Y
A	B	U	T		U	P	A		A	R	E	A
M	E	T	H		P	I	C		T	E	E	M
B	L	U	R	B		C	H	I	C			
			O	R	A		O	T	H	E	R	S
A	W	K	W	A	R	D		S	P	R	E	E
C	H	A	P		C	O	W		H	I	N	T
R	E	L	I	C		S	E	C	R	E	T	S
E	Y	E	L	I	D		B	O	A			
			L	A	W	S		P	S	A	L	M
S	O	L	O		E	A	R		E	T	U	I
K	N	O	W		E	V	E		S	O	R	E
Y	E	W	S		B	E	D			M	E	N

Yesterday's answer 8-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Romeo, 19; Matthew Perry, 39; Lee Ann Womack, 42; John Stamos, 45

Happy Birthday: A good idea will blossom into something great but don't spend your own money on presentation and promotion. Expand your circle of friends and business acquaintances and get involved with organizations, clubs and groups. Your strong sense of what will and won't work will convince others to step in and help. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 28, 37, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your emotions will be stirred up, causing arguments you are better off avoiding. Rethink the situation that has gotten you so riled up and realize the sweetest revenge is your own success. Use your energy wisely. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Hidden matters will surface and the truth is likely to come out. A colleague or boss will cause unnecessary frustration if you let him or her. Falling for someone you do business with may be too hard to resist. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expect to face some controversy and opposition if you speak your mind. Make some alterations to your current lifestyle that will help to eliminate some of the troubles you face. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Give your all and you will get results. Relationships can prosper today if you are giving and honest about your expectations. Security can be harnessed and will put your mind at ease. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If you position yourself to take over a group you belong to, someone will give you a run for your money. Sudden circumstances will arise when dealing with friends, neighbors or relatives. Don't put money into something you can't afford. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You are in control, so don't let anyone bully you into doing something you don't want to do. Meet new people or try new activities. Love is mounting and your emotions are strong, allowing you to move into a long lasting relationship. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Work quietly on your own and you will avoid trouble. Comments made by those you deal with today may offend. Don't retaliate—you cannot win. Bide your time. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be honest with yourself and the people you are close to and you will make important changes that will determine your future. There is money to be made if you are precise and practical. Lay your cards on the table professionally. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may fool some of the people around you but, if you exaggerate too much, someone will call your bluff. Focus on home and family, not those who come and go out of your life. Surround yourself with experienced individuals. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Loss is likely if you let someone coerce you into buying something you don't need or lending money you shouldn't part with. Stick to a budget and focus on solid moneymaking deals. Avoid joint ventures. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a good look at your money matters and you will come up with a viable solution that will increase your income. Money is heading your way and, if you use your finesse and charm, someone who has taken a pass on something you wanted to do in the past, will come through for you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do your best to form alliances with people who can help you get ahead and you will make greater progress. Love will take an unusual turn but, in the end, will bring you the satisfaction and companionship you desire. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an entrepreneur and an opportunist. You are creative, bright and charming with an ability to put a practical twist on whatever you do. You strive for perfection.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			1			3	9	
8				3		6		
2		1			8			
			4			8	3	2
				2				
1	7	2			6			
			5			1		4
		3		4				7
	8	5			7			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	5	6	4	1	9	3	8
9	4	6	3	8	2	1	7	5
1	8	3	9	7	5	6	4	2
5	6	4	7	3	9	2	8	1
7	2	9	8	1	4	3	5	6
8	3	1	5	2	6	4	9	7
4	5	2	1	9	7	8	6	3
3	9	7	2	6	8	5	1	4
6	1	8	4	5	3	7	2	9

Difficulty Level ★ 8/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ADRENALINE RUSHES **Solution: 6 letters**

P	D	R	P	E	C	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	S
D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	W	U
H	R	R	N	L	E	O	S	U	O	V	R	E	N	D
E	E	E	F	E	E	S	T	F	B	R	A	I	N	D
C	T	A	S	O	M	A	E	I	N	T	E	N	S	E
T	S	D	L	T	R	E	S	N	O	E	F	D	T	N
I	U	N	R	T	L	M	L	E	T	N	A	E	R	Y
C	L	A	N	I	H	E	A	P	H	A	S	L	E	L
O	F	L	N	G	V	C	S	N	P	E	T	L	S	L
N	S	G	M	N	T	E	Y	S	C	U	A	I	S	A
T	P	E	O	I	G	A	M	E	E	E	S	R	O	T
R	O	R	V	C	H	Y	P	E	R	Ⓓ	S	H	T	N
O	R	I	I	A	R	G	T	W	Ⓞ	L	F	T	Y	E
L	T	F	E	R	B	L	O	Ⓞ	D	C	I	S	U	M
Y	S	T	S	O	O	B	Ⓜ	O	M	E	N	T	U	M

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Activity, Blood, Boost, Brain, Confidence, Control, Determination, Drive, Emotions, Fast, Feeling, Fire, Flow, Flustered, Game, Gland, Health, Heart, Hectic, Hyper, Intense, Mentally, Momentum, Mood, Movies, Music, Nervous, Performances, Presentation, Racing, Release, Restless, Sports, Stress, Sudden, Supplement, Sweat, Symptom, Thrilled

Yesterday's Answer: Iambics

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Golden boy Michael Phelps eager for his own bed

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—Michael Phelps kept every swimsuit, every cap, every pair of goggles he wore during nine magical days at the Water Cube. Every memory will be savored, too, from goofing off with his U.S. teammates to bowing his head not one, not two, but eight times to receive a gold medal at the Beijing Games.

"There are moments I'll never forget," he said.

Neither will the whole world.

Phelps took down the grandest of Olympic records Sunday in the final event at the pool, helping the Americans rally for a world-record win in the 400-meter medley relay. That victory, one more than Mark Spitz managed at the 1972 Munich Games, assured him a place in sports history and a legacy of, well, does he even need one?

Wait, there's more. In his pursuit of Spitz, which actually began four years ago with six gold medals in Athens, Phelps became the winningest Olympian ever with 14 victories, five more than any other athlete.

Even though the Americans have never lost the medley relay at the Olympics, the latest gold was hardly a breeze. When Phelps dived into the water for the butterfly—the third of four legs—the Americans were third behind Japan and Australia.

But Phelps, swimming the same distance and stroke that he used to win his seventh gold a day earlier, powered back to the front on his return lap, passing off to Jason Lezak with the Americans in front. Australia's Eamon Sullivan tried to chase down Lezak and appeared to be gaining as they came to the wall. But Lezak touched in 3 minutes, 29.34 seconds—the seventh world record of Phelps' remarkable run.

Afterward, Phelps gathered his three mates in a group huddle, then hugged each one of them separately. He thanked them for their role in the last of his three relay wins. They congratulated him for his remarkable feat.

"It was cool," backstroker Aaron Peirsol said. "We got to be a part of it."

Another member of the relay team, breaststroker Brendan Hansen, was most impressed by the way Phelps detached himself from all the hype once he got away from the pool. He'd set a world record in the morning, then go back to the village and act like nothing had happened.

"I'd be like, 'Do you realize what you're doing?'" Hansen said. "And he'd be like, 'Man, the pizza is good today.'"

But deep down, Phelps was soaking it all in—the glory and the minutiae. He had all the medals hanging in his room. By the end of the games, Hansen quipped, they resembled a wind chime.

As much as he relished the actual races, what he really seemed to treasure most were those behind-the-scenes moments. Unlike Spitz, who was viewed as aloof and even arrogant by his fellow swimmers, Phelps got along with all his teammates, even though they all knew he was in a league of his own.

He hung out with them during his down time in the athletes' village, playing cards and the world-conquering game Risk. He made a point to engage the Olympic rookies he didn't know very well. He did what lots of other 23-year-olds did—play hip-hop music and text his buddies.

"I just wanted to make sure I took every single moment in and every single swim in, every single moment with my teammates, so I would remember them," Phelps said. "I don't want to forget anything that happened."

AP

Michael Phelps of the United States goes to hug his mother Debbie, left, as his sister, Hilary Phelps, looks on, after the medal ceremony for men's 4x100-meter medley relay final during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008.

No one else does, either.

Everyone at the pool was mesmerized by Phelps, even if they were competing for another country.

"I couldn't care less about my swims," said Australia's Leisel Jones, who won two gold medals. "To swim in the same era as him has been awesome."

Spitz's record had stood since the Nixon administration. Australian coach Alan Thompson figures it might take even longer for someone to take down the new mark.

"We've been talking about Mark Spitz for 36 years now," Thompson said. "I don't know if I'm going to be alive when they stop talking about this bloke. You wonder if we are going to see someone as good as this again."

After Spitz's performance in 1972, there surely were folks who believed an unattainable record had just been set, that no one would ever collect so many gold medals at a single Olympics. But that merely set a new target for everyone.

Phelps was the one who finally hit the bull's-eye.

"Being able to have something like that to shoot for, it made those days when I was tired and I didn't want to be there ... it made those days easier to look at (Spitz) and say, `I want to do this,'" Phelps said. "I'm just thankful for him having done what he did."

Somewhere, there's probably a child who will head to the pool a little early to get started on his dream of winning nine gold medals.

Phelps surely hopes so. Every chance he gets, he talks of wanting to raise the sport's profile in the U.S., where it barely gets noticed in non-Olympic years outside of neighborhood swim meets. He was the star attraction in Beijing, drawing huge television ratings back home—where the morning finals could be shown live in the evening.

President Bush watched Phelps win two races. Basketball stars Kobe Bryant and LeBron James were there Sunday, rooting him on to his eighth gold.

"The sport of swimming has come a long way so far, and I think it can go even further," he said. "I can take it even further."

The kid who was scared to put his face in the water has grown into the face of his sport. There surely will be plenty of promotional appearances in the days and weeks to come, as Phelps tries to capitalize on his accomplishments while they're still fresh in the public's mind. He hopes to bring everyone along for the ride.

"Mike is opening a lot of doors with what he's doing," Peirsol said. "Hopefully the sport can build on this momentum."

Not that anyone will see Phelps in a LZR Racer anytime soon. He'll take a nice, long break from swimming. The early morning wake-up calls, the grueling weight sessions, the endless laps in the pool—all are on hold for now.

Besides, he has to pack. Phelps will be moving back to Baltimore after spending the last four years in Michigan, where he grew into a man and learned to be on his own for the first time.

Home sounds pretty good to the 23-year-old Phelps, who has a strong relationship with his mother, Debbie, and two older sisters. Phelps' parents split when he was only 7, and the relationship with his father has long been strained, but the women in his life cheered him every step of the way in Beijing.

After the eighth gold, Phelps climbed into stands to give all three of them a kiss. Debbie gave her boy a little extra hug, tears streaming down her face.

"I just want to lay in my own bed for five minutes at least and just relax," Phelps said. "One of the things I'm really looking forward to is getting back to Baltimore."

Not that he's breaking up his hugely successful partnership with coach Bob Bowman. They've been together since Phelps was an overactive 11-year-old, bouncing off the walls when he wasn't beating everyone in the pool. They headed off to Michigan together when Bowman took a job there. Now, the coach is returning to the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, where their relationship was forged.

Phelps plans to return to the pool in plenty of time to get ready for next year's world championships in Rome, where he'll start to tinker with the program that worked so well in Athens and was even better in Beijing. He plans to dump the 400 individual medley, the most grueling race on his schedule, and would like to take on some shorter events.

The 100 freestyle is the most likely addition.

"He thinks it'll be a little easier," Bowman said. "He's more naturally suited for longer distances. It'll be change for him, but I think it'll be a good one."

Four years from now, Phelps has every intention of returning for the London Games, where he'll be able to add to his already remarkable record.

"Bob has a saying, 'Putting money in the bank,' " Phelps said. "When we train every day, sometimes there are workouts you don't like, don't want to do. Bob says you're putting money in the bank.

"I guess I put a lot of money in the bank over the last four years, and we withdrew pretty much every penny in the bank. After Bob and I both grab a little break, it'll be time to start depositing."

Chad Johnson hurt in Lions' 27-10 win over Bengals

CINCINNATI (AP)—Pro Bowl receiver Chad Johnson strained his left shoulder Sunday night during the Detroit Lions' 27-10 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals, who now have their top two receivers and their starting tailback limited by injuries.

Johnson landed awkwardly on his left side after cornerback Brian Kelly intercepted a pass thrown his way on Cincinnati's first series. Johnson rolled on the field in pain for several seconds, then went to the locker room for an examination. He did not return.

Coach Marvin Lewis said the shoulder popped out and back into place on the field. Medical tests found no fracture.

"I think he should be ready by the opener," Lewis said. "Some of these things come back right away, and they're ready to go."

The Bengals already were missing Pro Bowl receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh and running back Rudi Johnson. Both of them have missed the first two preseason games with hamstring injuries.

Detroit got the better of it in the first quarter, when both teams played their starters.

Jon Kitna had a perfect passer rating of 158.3 for the second straight game. Playing in the stadium where he started the Bengals' resurgence in 2003, Kitna was much better than Carson Palmer, the No. 1 draft pick who took his place in Cincinnati.

Right away, Kitna tested a redesigned Bengals defense that has the cornerbacks aggressively covering receivers. He threw a 40-yard pass to Calvin Johnson on the opening play, letting the receiver beat cornerback Leon Hall on a sideline route.

That drive came up short in part because of an offensive pass interference penalty on Roy Williams. The next time the Lions got the ball, Kitna threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Johnson, who ran past cornerback Johnathan Joseph for an easy score.

Kitna completed his three passes for 76 yards and a touchdown, leaving him 9-of-10 for 146 yards with a pair of touchdowns in the preseason.

In an ominous sign for the Bengals, Palmer was repeatedly hit as he threw and got sacked once. He was only 6-of-13 for 50 yards with the one costly interception. He led Chad Johnson a bit too much, giving Kelly a chance to knock the ball free and grab it in the air.

Palmer played until the middle of the second quarter, trying to get the offense moving. In his two preseason games, Palmer is 11-of-22 for 83 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Both teams failed on field goal attempts. Cincinnati's Shayne Graham had a 46-yard try blocked by Dewayne White, but later made one from 50 yards away. Detroit's Dave Rayner was wide left on a 47-yard attempt, then later connected from 48 and 23 yards. Rayner replaced Jason Hanson, who strained his thigh in the preseason opener.

Third-string quarterback Drew Stanton threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Middleton and also ran 10 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Bengals defensive tackle Pat Sims, a third-round pick, was taken off the field on a cart after hurting his right foot in the fourth quarter.

Carl Pettersson wins Wyndham on hometown course

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Carl Pettersson was one imperfect hole from leading the full final two rounds of the Wyndham Championship. It was that brief slip-up that propelled the Swede to victory in his adopted hometown.

Pettersson won his local tournament for his first PGA Tour victory in two years, shooting a 2-under 68 on Sunday for a two-stroke victory at Sedgefield Country Club.

Irked by a bogey on the 11th hole that temporarily dropped him into second place, Pettersson responded with three birdies during the four-hole stretch that followed to finish at 21-under 259 and earn $918,000.

"Not getting it up and down on 11 kind of (ticked) me off," Pettersson said. "I kind of told myself, 'I'm letting the tournament get away from me again.' ... That was where the tournament was won for me."

Scott McCarron briefly led midway through the final round before fading into second with a 68. Rich Beem's second straight 63 left him four strokes off the lead, with J.J. Henry (62) and rookie Martin Laird (63) another shot behind him.

But there was never any question that the last day of the PGA Tour's final pre-playoff event was anything but a two-man showdown.

Pettersson made his move immediately after slipping out of the lead for the first time since Friday, when his tournament-record 61 in Round 2 shot him up the leaderboard. He began the back nine with consecutive bogeys, falling one stroke back to 19 under when he missed an 8-foot par putt on the 11th.

"I kind of felt like I let the tournament slip away on 10 and 11," Pettersson said.

McCarron gave the stroke back on the 12th, missing a 13-foot birdie putt and lipping out a 4-foot par attempt during just his second bogey, then saying afterward that "I thought I kind of let it go" on that hole.

"I told myself on the next tee box, 'I got my momentum. I've got to put the pressure on Scott and hit a great tee shot. I've got a chance to really put the hammer down,'" Pettersson said. "And I managed to do it."

AP

Carl Pettersson kisses the Sam Snead trophy on the 18th green after winning the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008. Pettersson finished with a total 21 under-par.

Pettersson birdied the 13th for a one-stroke lead, then went back up by two shots with a birdie on the par-5 15th - the easiest hole on the course for everyone but him, after two bogeys and a par on it. This time it was McCarron's turn for trouble; he sent his second shot into the sand, recovered and lipped out an 8-foot birdie putt.

"That hole has not been very good to me," Pettersson said. "Finally feel like you got one back on that hole."

McCarron's bogey on the 17th all but locked up Pettersson's first victory since the 2006 Memorial. Among those joining in the celebration were N.C. State coach Richard Sykes and former Wolfpack teammate Tim Clark, who tied for sixth.

Pettersson is a Swede who moved to Greensboro as a teen, played at North Carolina State, lives a 90-minute drive away in Raleigh and serves on the tournament's board.

"It will be a great satisfaction just to think about, you know, pulled it off and did it and it's a wonderful feeling," Pettersson said. "Doesn't happen that often in golf unless you're Tiger Woods."

McCarron - who had used two early birdies to erase the two-stroke lead that Pettersson brought into the round - was denied his fourth career victory and first since 2001. It was the second top-10 finish of the year for the PGA Tour veteran who sat out the 2007 season after having surgery to repair a tendon in his right elbow.

"Second place is obviously tough to swallow right now, but I'll probably be pretty happy here when I realize I've got a job for the rest of the year," McCarron said.

Beem and Henry both finished strong and propelled themselves off the FedEx Cup bubble and into the playoffs, which begin later this week at The Barclays.

"I knew I had to play my butt off just to make it up there," Beem said. "I didn't want to have four weeks off, you know, and I'm glad at least I got into the first one."

Beem had birdies on four of his last six holes, jumping 52 spots to 114th, while Henry, who birdied four of his final five holes, moved up 42 spots to 135th. Laird, who shared the first-day lead with Bob Heintz before falling off the pace, wound up jumping 36 spots to 128th.

Oswalt strikes out 10, pitches Astros to 3-0 win over D-Backs

HOUSTON (AP)—Roy Oswalt allowed one hit in eight innings and struck out 10, outpitching Randy Johnson in the Houston Astros' 3-0 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Sunday.

Ty Wigginton hit a three-run homer off Johnson in the first inning, sending the Astros to their ninth victory in 11 games.

Mets 4, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Johan Santana pitched a three-hitter for his fifth career shutout and streaking New York got home runs from Brian Schneider and Carlos Beltran.

Argenis Reyes added three hits for the Mets, who have won six straight and 10 of 13. New York began the day leading the NL East by two games over Philadelphia.

Cubs 9, Marlins 2

In Miami, Two-run doubles by Alfonso Soriano and Aramis Ramirez and a three-run double by Reed Johnson sparked an eight-run seventh that rallied Chicago past Florida.

Ryan Dempster (14-5) struck out 10 batters in six innings to win for the fourth time in six starts.

Dodgers 7, Brewers 5

In Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit his second homer of the game in the ninth inning and Los Angeles recovered to beat Milwaukee moments after blowing a four-run lead.

The Dodgers also got homers from Manny Ramirez and Matt Kemp to move into a first-place tie with Arizona in the NL West.

Reds 7, Cardinals 3

In Cincinnati, A revived Edinson Volquez pitched seven shutout innings and traded up-and-in fastballs with counterpart Kyle Lohse, helping Cincinnati end St. Louis' four-game winning streak.

The Reds have lost 17 of their last 22 games, putting them on course for an eighth straight losing season.

Giants 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Tim Lincecum pitched 7 2-3 strong innings and closer Brian Wilson got San Francisco out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth, helping San Francisco beat Atlanta.

Showing no bad effects from the bruised knee that forced him out of his last start, Lincecum (13-3) allowed three hits, one run and four walks while striking out 10—five with runners in scoring position.

Rockies 7, Nationals 2

In Washington, Ian Stewart and Seth Smith hit three-run homers, Aaron Cook struggled through five innings for his 15th victory and Colorado beat Washington, handing the Nationals their season-high 10th straight loss.

It's the longest skid for the Nationals since they moved to Washington before the 2005 season, and the franchise's worst since the Montreal Expos dropped 11 games in a row from June 23-July 4, 1991.

Phillies 2, Padres 1

At San Diego, Cole Hamels pitched eight sharp innings to snap a seven-start winless skid, Pat Burrell hit a go-ahead homer and Philadelphia beat San Diego.

Hamels (10-8) limited the Padres to one run on seven hits as he won for the first time since a 4-1 victory at Atlanta on July 3. The left-hander has allowed two or fewer runs in seven of his last nine starts and 10 of 14 and was 0-3 with a 3.61 ERA in the seven-game stretch.

Twins 11, Mariners 8

At Minneapolis, Joe Nathan left the bases loaded in the final two innings for his 33rd save and the Minnesota Twins held on for a victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Nathan got Ichiro Suzuki to ground out to complete the three-game sweep. The All-Star closer also struck out Adrian Beltre with the sacks full to end the eighth.

Rays 7, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, B.J. Upton homered and drove in three runs in his return from a benching, Scott Kazmir allowed two runs in six innings and Tampa Bay downed Texas to add a game to its AL East lead.

With the bases loaded in the ninth and Josh Hamilton coming to bat as the potential tying run, Rays manager Joe Maddon had the RBI leader walked to force in a run and help protect the lead.

White Sox 13, Athletics 1

In Oakland, California, Carlos Quentin hit his 34th homer and drove in four runs, Alexei Ramirez added a grand slam and Chicago won a series in Oakland for the first time in eight years.

Javier Vazquez (10-10) allowed four hits in eight innings to help the White Sox win consecutive games in Oakland for the first time since August 2000. Chicago also took the season series from the A's for the first time in eight years.

Blue Jays 15, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Alex Rios had five hits, matching a club record with four doubles, and Toronto chased Boston ace Josh Beckett in the third inning.

Adam Lind had a solo homer and four RBIs and John McDonald added three hits and three RBIs for the Blue Jays, who set a team record with 10 doubles. They won their fifth in six games and improved to 6-2 against the Red Sox this season.

Yankees 15, Royals 6

In New York, Jason Giambi hit a grand slam, Alex Rodriguez sent a three-run homer bouncing into Monument Park and New York battered Brian Bannister and Kansas City to salvage a split of the 10-game season series.

Cody Ransom added a two-run homer and Xavier Nady also went deep for the Yankees, who moved within five games of Boston in the wild-card race. Rodriguez finished 3-for-3 with five RBIs, and Derek Jeter went 4-for-4 and scored three times.

Indians 4, Angels 3

In Cleveland, Jeremy Sowers and two relievers cooled off Los Angeles' lineup, and Cleveland took two of three from the Angels to hand them a rare series loss.

It was the Angels' first series loss to an AL opponent since a three-game sweep in Tampa Bay from May 9-11. They hadn't lost any series since dropping two of three interleague games to the Los Angeles Dodgers from June 27-29.

Orioles 16, Tigers 8

In Detroit, Melvin Mora and Luke Scott hit two home runs apiece, leading Baltimore to a rout of Detroit.

Mora had five hits and a career-high six RBIs, while Scott had three hits and four RBIs to pace a 22-hit outburst. It was the most hits for the Orioles since they had 22 on July 22, 2006, at Tampa Bay. Baltimore's 16 runs and 12 extra-base hits were season highs.

Injury-hobbled Ginebra lives to fight another day

MANILA, Philippines— Barangay Ginebra, walking wounded, leaned on sheer heart to fashion out a stirring come-from-behind 80-75 win over Air21 Sunday night to force a deciding Game Seven in their 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference title showdown.

Chris Alexander had his PBA career-best performance, keying a decisive Ginebra turnaround in the third quarter that led to the victory cheered on by the predominant Kings supporters at the overflowing Araneta Coliseum.

Alexander scored 20 of his 37 points in the third period as the Kings made an 18-point swing from a 38-50 count and went on to foil the Express' first crack at wrapping up the best-of-seven series.

The two teams instead fight for all the marbles Wednesday also at the Big Dome.

"(The boys) just lived up to the spirit of Barangay Ginebra – never say die, keep the energy, keep the spirit. We had no other recourse since it's a knockout game for us. Something good came out of it," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

"It has nothing to do with the Xs and Os. It's sheer heart," Uichico added.

Air21 coach Bo Perasol took his hat off to the Kings for their Game Six effort but he remained confident they would win the series in the end.

"Imagine, we lost Steven Thomas (on fouls) with over five minutes left to play and we're beaten by only five. That says a lot na kaya namin manalo," said Perasol.

"The boys were sad with the loss but they themselves remained confident we can pull it off. Game Seven is all or nothing. Patibayan ito ng puso," Perasol added.

Ginebra 80 – Alexander 37, Menk 10, Tubid 9, Pacana 6, Valenzuela 5, Caguioa 5, Artadi 4, Salvacion 2, Crisano 2, Reavis 0.

Air21 75 – Thomas 20, De Ocampo 16, Santos 10, David 10, Canaleta 7, Arboleda 4, Billones 3, Cruz 2, Se 2, Intal 1, Kramer 0.

Quarterscores: 15-27, 34-37, 61-55, 80-75. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

RANGERS

From Page 28

J.J. Laniyo led off for the Rangers at the bottom of the 10th and walked, while second batter J.P, Sablan singled. Mario Sablan was next at bat, but was beaten to first.

With runners in scoring position, Jesus Iguel stepped up to the plate and blasted a two-run homer to give the Rangers an 8-6 lead.

Rangers catcher Robert Bansil made it 9-6, when he singled and drove in Jesus Iguel. The Rangers next two batters were thrown out with Rock Steady relief pitcher Roy Celis, who replaced John Mafnas at the bottom of the eighth, striking out Pete Tomokane and Benwachi Taisakan flying out to left.

Rock Steady needed to score three runs to force another extra inning and four to steal the game. They did neither, as the Rangers' defense was there again to preserve the victory.

Leadoff batter Dane Lizama and Toi Celis were beaten to first base.

Catcher Manny Sablan advanced on a shortstop error and moved to second, as Sakisat walked fourth batter Roy Celis.

But that was as far as Sablan could get, as the Rangers sealed the win when third baseman Peter Tomokane caught Vince Sablan's line drive for the third out.

J.P. Sablan went 4-for-5 for the Rangers, while Jesus Iguel was 3-for-6 and had four RBIs. Bansil was 2-for-6 at the plate.

Winning pitcher Kelvin Kapileo pitched 8.2 innings for the Rangers, striking out four, walking three, and giving up seven hits.

Luis Iguel went 2-or-3 for Rock Steady, which ironically had a better batting average compared to the Rangers. Rock Steady hit 11-for-51 for a batting average of .215, while the Rangers recorded .200 after going 10-for-50.

Game 4 was being played last night, but results of the match were unavailable at press time. A Rangers win in Game 4 will wrap up the series, while a loss will force a deciding Game 5 tomorrow.

PERFECT

From Page 28

2-for-2 on the opening day, beating John Martin Kaiulo of Papua New Guinea and Xyril Posala of Samoa.

Miller defeated Kaiulo in straight sets, 6-4, 6-0, and bounced back from an opening set loss to Posala to pull off a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Miller's second day assignments yesterday were against Devrath Narayan and Robin Morove of Papua New Guinea.

The top two players in each pool will advance to the crossover semifinals with the No. 1 player in Pool A meeting the No. 2 player in Pool B for the first finals ticket and Pool B's top placer dueling Pool A's second finisher for the other championship berth.

In Pool A of the senior girls division, Thea Minor split her opening day matches.

Minor started her campaign in the Oceania Plate event on a winning note, defeating Lorish Puluspene of Papua New Guinea, 6-3, 6-3.

But Minor failed to post a clean record on Day 1 after bowing to Adalyn Hazelman of Fiji in three sets.

The 13-year-old Minor drew first blood against the 15-year-old Hazelman, eking out a 7-5 victory in the opening set. But her much older foe recovered and took the last two sets, 6-3, 6-3, to steal the win.

Dina Jones is also playing in Pool A, but had a tough time on Day 1, dropping all two matches.

The 16-year-old CNMI netter bowed to Hazelman in her first game, 2-6, 3-6, and failed to bounced back in the second match, losing to Leilani Duchnak of American Samoa, 1-6, 0-6.

Jones was hoping to enter the win column yesterday, as she faced Minor and Losana Vosa of Fiji on Day 2. Minor's other game on Day 2 was against Duchnak.

Meanwhile, Minor entered the finals of the girls' 13-and-under doubles in the POJC Friday.

Minor teamed up with Shawn Adams of FSM and won their semifinals match against Puluspene and Lorraine Bani of Vanuatu, 6-0, 6-4.

But Minor and Adams lost to Fiji's tandem of Annie Shannon and Tarani Kamoe in the title match, 3-6, 2-6.

In the other boys' 13-and-under doubles match, Miller and Jones won their first game against Fiji's Geordie Daulaca and Kaiulo, 6-1, 6-1, but bowed in the semifinals against Ducknak and Posala, 4-6, 2-6.

The pair of Miller and Jones settled for third when they downed Morove and Khatri, 6-3, 6-4. Tahiti's Karl Yomes and New Caledonia's Clement Coarraze ruled the boys' 13-and-under doubles after beating Duchnak and Posala, 6-0, 6-1.

CNMI girls' 18-under player Mayuko Arriola joined forces with Guam's Alea Dugan, but lost in the battle for third place against Litia Godinet of American Samoa and Kesaia Mu'amoholeva of Tonga, 4-6, 4-6. Samoa's Steffi Carruthers and American Samoa's Leilani Duchnak won in the finals against the Solomon Island's Zinnia Leamana and PNG's Marcia Tere-Apisah, 7-5, 7-5.

An injured Ji Hoon Heo teamed up with Guam's William Koo and dropped their first game against Duncan Maetoloa and Ian Honila of the Solomon Islands, 6-0, 6-0. The pair of Vanuatu's Lorenzo Pineda, who defeated Heo in the boys' singles finals, and Fiji's William O'Connell was the doubles champion in the boys' 18-under division. Pineda and O'Connell prevailed in the finals over Maetoloa and Honila, 6-1, 6-2.

LIU

From Page 28

last week were hoping for a similar kind of boost from their favorite son.

Some of Liu's fellow heat competitors were shocked.

"I feel so sorry that he was not in," Mohammed Issa Al-thawadi of Qatar said. "I really wanted to be next to Liu's lane because he is such a big champion."

David Ilariani of Georgia said the pullout was "a big surprise for everybody."

"People were shouting because they couldn't believe he was finished," Ilariani said.

As thousands watched Liu's start block sit empty while his heat got under way, Emma Snowsill of Australia was nearing the finish line in the women's triathlon.

Snowsill, a three-time world champion, took gold in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-kilometer bicycle ride and 10-kilometer run in 1 hour, 58 minutes, 27 seconds. Vanessa Fernandes of Portugal was second, a minute behind, and another Australian, Emma Moffatt, took the bronze.

"Coming down on the last lap I had to throw whatever I had left," Snowsill said. "There's nothing like running scared."

In other early results Monday, Jonas Warrer and Martin Kirketerp Ibsen of Denmark were declared the official winners of the 49er skiff gold medal in sailing after protests against their winning race delayed the result by nearly a day in Qingdao.

A jury's rejection of the protests means the Danes get the gold, with silver to Iker Martinez and Xabier Fernandez of Spain, who won the title in Athens fours years ago, and bronze to Jan-Peter Peckolt and Hannes Peckolt of Germany.

In Sunday's medal race in strong winds and rough conditions, the Danes broke their mast just before racing started. They rushed back to port and borrowed the skiff from the Croatian boat, which failed to qualify for the 10-boat medal races, and sailed to overall victory. Protests that were rejected on Monday included one from the race committee that the Danes had switched boats illegally.

In beach volleyball, Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser of the United States advanced to the final four after beating Germany 21-13, 25-23.

The reigning world champions and gold medal favorites defeated Eric Koreng and David Klemperer and will play 15th-seeded Georgia, a surprising straight-set winner over the Netherlands.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	75	48	.610	–
Boston	71	53	.573	4 1/2
New York	66	58	.532	9 1/2
Toronto	64	60	.516	11 1/2
Baltimore	60	63	.488	15

Central Division

Chicago	70	53	.569	–
Minnesota	70	53	.569	–
Detroit	60	64	.484	10 1/2
Cleveland	56	67	.455	14
Kansas City	55	69	.444	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	76	46	.623	–
Texas	62	63	.496	15 1/2
Oakland	56	67	.455	20 1/2
Seattle	46	77	.374	30 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	68	56	.548	–
Philadelphia	66	58	.532	2
Florida	64	61	.512	4 1/2
Atlanta	56	68	.452	12
Washington	44	81	.352	24 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	76	48	.613	–
Milwaukee	71	54	.568	5 1/2
St. Louis	70	57	.551	7 1/2
Houston	63	61	.508	13
Pittsburgh	55	69	.444	21
Cincinnati	55	70	.440	21 1/2

West Division

Arizona	64	60	.516	–
Los Angeles	64	60	.516	–
Colorado	57	69	.452	8
San Francisco	52	71	.423	11 1/2
San Diego	48	76	.387	16

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 9, Florida 2
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 3
N.Y. Mets 4, Pittsburgh 0
San Francisco 3, Atlanta 1
Colorado 7, Washington 2
Houston 3, Arizona 0
L.A. Dodgers 7, Milwaukee 5
Philadelphia 2, San Diego 1
Baltimore 16, Detroit 8
N.Y. Yankees 15, Kansas City 6
Cleveland 4, L.A. Angels 3
Toronto 15, Boston 4
Minnesota 11, Seattle 8
Chicago White Sox 13, Oakland 1
Tampa Bay 7, Texas 4

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Wyndham Championship, a $5.1 million (3.4 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,118-yard, par-70 Sedgefield Country Club:

FINAL ROUND

Carl Pettersson	64-61-66-68	259
Scott McCarron	65-64-64-68	261
Rich Beem	70-67-63-63	263
J.J. Henry	70-66-66-62	264
Martin Laird	63-74-64-63	264
Tim Clark	64-67-68-66	265
John Senden	66-66-67-66	265
Kevin Streelman	66-64-67-68	265
Shane Bertsch	67-68-67-64	266
Mark Wilson	68-67-67-64	266
Michael Letzig	67-66-67-66	266
Bob Sowards	65-66-68-67	266
Jerry Kelly	66-65-68-67	266
Briny Baird	67-68-62-69	266
Justin Bolli	68-66-68-65	267
Lee Janzen	67-66-67-67	267
Vaughn Taylor	67-67-66-67	267
Garrett Willis	64-64-69-70	267
Scott Sterling	64-71-64-68	267
Danny Lee	68-66-67-67	268
Patrick Sheehan	66-71-65-66	268
Jay Williamson	67-67-67-67	268
Lucas Glover	66-68-66-68	268
John Riegger	67-65-67-69	268
Kent Jones	66-68-65-69	268
Zach Johnson	66-70-69-64	269
Tom Pernice, Jr.	68-66-69-66	269
Paul Casey	70-66-67-66	269
Jason Dufner	66-69-66-68	269
David Lutterus	69-64-72-65	270
Bob Estes	71-66-67-66	270
Robert Garrigus	66-66-71-67	270
Mark Brooks	68-66-68-68	270
Y.E. Yang	67-69-66-68	270
Jon Mills	68-69-65-68	270
Stephen Poole	66-71-69-65	271
George McNeill	68-67-68-68	271
Charles Warren	67-66-69-69	271
Billy Andrade	66-69-67-69	271
Marc Turnesa	69-68-65-69	271
David Toms	68-67-71-66	272
Joe Ogilvie	69-68-68-67	272
Ben Crane	68-66-70-68	272
Bob Tway	70-65-69-68	272
Glen Day	66-69-69-68	272
Charley Hoffman	68-69-66-69	272
Eric Axley	67-69-64-72	272
Mark Calcavecchia	67-69-70-67	273
Brian Gay	67-68-66-72	273
Nick Flanagan	68-69-70-67	274
Tom Byrum	71-66-68-69	274
John Daly	70-67-66-71	274
Richard S. Johnson	67-70-71-67	275
Bob Heintz	63-72-72-68	275
Cody Freeman	70-67-70-68	275
Jeff Maggert	66-70-70-69	275
Kyle Thompson	68-67-71-69	275
Brenden Pappas	69-67-69-70	275
Steve Marino	65-68-71-71	275
Jeff Gove	68-66-73-69	276
Ken Duke	65-71-71-69	276
Davis Love III	66-70-71-69	276
Joe Durant	67-69-70-70	276
Bo Van Pelt	67-66-72-71	276
Todd Demsey	69-68-68-71	276
Mathias Gronberg	71-64-75-67	277
Mark Hensby	66-66-75-70	277
Jason Gore	67-69-70-71	277
Brandt Snedeker	66-68-74-70	278
Ryuji Imada	68-68-73-69	278
Dean Wilson	66-71-71-70	278
Frank Lickliter II	68-68-71-71	278
Doug LaBelle II	70-67-70-71	278
Tim Wilkinson	66-69-69-74	278
Peter Lonard	66-71-73-69	279
Ted Purdy	68-68-71-72	279
Troy Matteson	69-67-70-73	279
Billy Mayfair	67-68-71-75	281

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
China	35	13	13	61
United States	19	21	25	65
Australia	11	10	12	33
Britain	11	7	8	26
Germany	9	6	7	22
South Korea	8	9	5	22
Japan	8	5	7	20
Russia	7	12	12	31
Italy	6	6	6	18
Ukraine	5	3	6	14
France	4	9	13	26
Romania	4	1	3	8
Netherlands	3	5	4	12
Spain	3	3	2	8
Slovakia	3	1	0	4
Poland	2	3	1	6
Czech Republic	2	3	0	5
Jamaica	2	2	0	4
Canada	2	1	4	7
North Korea	2	1	3	6
New Zealand	2	1	2	5
Ethiopia	2	1	0	3
Denmark	2	0	3	5
Switzerland	2	0	3	5
Georgia	2	0	1	3
Cuba	1	4	4	9
Kazakhstan	1	3	4	8
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Azerbaijan	1	2	2	5
Brazil	1	0	5	6
Norway	1	2	1	4
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Slovenia	1	1	2	4
Bulgaria	1	1	1	3
Finland	1	1	1	3
Mongolia	1	1	0	2
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
India	1	0	0	1
Hungary	0	4	1	5
Sweden	0	3	0	3
Belarus	0	3	7	10
Kenya	0	2	1	3
Turkey	0	2	1	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Greece	0	1	2	3
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Croatia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Uzbekistan	0	1	1	2
Armenia	0	0	5	5
Chinese Taipei	0	0	2	2
Chile	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Estonia	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Portugal	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Argentina	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Lithuania	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonathan Salas makes mark in Boise

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES ABROAD

While most of his former teammates on Saipan are on vacation after playing in the 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament last month, two-time World Series participant Jonathan Salas had a busy schedule this month, suiting up for the Boise Gems and playing in two tournaments.

Salas, who played for the CNMI Junior League team that made it to the World Series twice in Taylor, Michigan, and was once a member of the CNMI Little League All-Stars, is now based in Boise, Idaho and plays centerfielder/infielder for the Gems.

Salas and the Gems competed in the 2008 "AA" American Legion State Tournament, which ran from Aug. 1-5 at the Hallilwell Park-Bill Derham Field in Pocatello, Idaho.

In Pocatello, the Gems debuted against the Lewiston Clarkston Twins. Six other teams joined the tournament, namely the Twin Falls Cowboys, Centennial Cannons, Coeur d' Alene Lumbermen, Jerome Cyclones, Boise Capitals, and the Pocatello Running Rebels.

A week after the tournament in Pocatello, Salas, who is the son of former Saipan Little League baseball president Joe Salas and Cathy, and the Gems moved to Bozeman to participate in a regional tournament.

Before this month's tournaments, the upcoming senior of Timberline High School and the Gems participated in three other competitions. The first one was the Bozeman tournament, which ran from June 19-22, followed by the Twin Falls Wood Bat Tournament from July 2-6 in Twin Falls, Idaho and a district tournament in Fort Boise from July 22-28.

WWW.BOISEGEMS.ORG
Jonathan Salas, front row second from left, poses with the rest of his Boise Gems teammates and coaching staff in this group photo.

Salas helped the Gems post an 8-1 record in the Bozeman tournament. The Gems beat Centralia, Greatfalls, Colorado, Albany, Nampa Chiefs, Centennial Cannons, Boise Seminoles, Treasure Valley Stars, and the Caldwell Silver Streaks. They absorbed their lone loss at the hands of Canada, Bozeman, 2-3.

In the tournament in Twin Falls, the Gems also had only one loss in 13 games, bowing to the Seattle CSI, 4-5. The Gems defeated Utah CSI, Twin Falls, Pendleton Lethbridge, Capitals, Barons, Meridian Rangers, Eagle Vipers, Mountain View Toros, Columbia Mudcats, and the Boise Senators.

In the district tournament, the Gems claimed the championship after sweeping all of their four games, including the finals match against the Boise Capital, 10-7. The Gems routed Fort Boise in the opening game, 10-1, then beat TVS in their second assignment, 9-3. The Gems prevailed by only one run, 18-17, against the Capital in the first meeting, before winning by three runs in the finals versus the same team.

After these three tournaments, Salas emerged as the second best hitter of the Gems. He went 46-for-97 at bat for a batting average of .474. Pitcher Sam Richter led the Gems in batting average with .513.

The 17-year-old Salas, who played for the Jets in the Saipan Junior League, had the most triples with six. He also made five doubles, one homer, and 22 bases on ball and had eight stolen bases.

He pitched for the Gems only once and was the winning pitcher. He pitched 9.1 innings, walked eight, struck out four, and gave up only six runs. Salas had a 4.62 ERA.

Tsunami Saipan sets next ARC swim lessons

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Due to insistent public demand, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will bring back its American Red Cross swim lessons this coming September and October at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

In an email from the fledgling club' manager Yuko Kimura, she said Tsunami Saipan will hold its immensely popular swim lessons from Sept. 13 to Oct. 11 at the south pool of the Garapan landmark.

Kimura, who is the wife of Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, said like in the past the swim lessons will be conducted by the club's swimmers and coaches.

She said registration will be in a first-come, first-serve basis at the Fiesta Resort south pool area on Sept. 13 from 9:15am to 9:45am.

Cost to join the ARC swim lessons is $30 for both adults and children alike. Succeeding enrollees from the same family get $5 off as registration will only be $25 per person.

The first of five swim lessons will be on Sept. 13, 10am to 11am, and will be followed by four more one-hour sessions on Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, and Oct. 11.

All participants will be awarded American Red Cross certificates after graduation day on Oct. 11.

Enrolment is limited to only the 55 first sign-ups and children must be at least five years old to join. "No toddlers please," said Kimura.

For more information about Tsunami Saipan's ARC swim lessons or to confirm your children on the pre-register list, email Yuko Kimura at tsunamisaipan@yahoo.co.jp.

A total of 59 took part in Tsunami Saipan's ARC swim held last June at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Kimura then said the number of participants was a great follow-up to the 56 that took part in the Red Cross lessons in November 2007 and the 69 that signed up only last April.

MARK RABAGO
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will bring back its American Red Cross swim lessons from Sept. 13 to Oct. 11 at the south pool of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Meeting for sports federations today

The Division of Sports and Recreation is calling on all sports organizations and individuals who use the Oleai Sports Complex to attend a meeting today, Aug. 18, 5pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

DSR director Joe Lizama said the meeting's agenda will revolve around usage and utility fee matters at the sports facility, which hosts athletics, basketball, baseball, badminton, football, table tennis, and other sports in any given day. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Nick Sablan is RGA August Ace

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Veteran golfer Nick Sablan won Refaluwasch Golf Association's August Ace of the Month Tournament after his qualifying score held up last weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Manny Mangarero actually shot a lower score than the 2003 Suva South Pacific Games campaigner, but the July Ace was ineligible to win because association rules state that players could only win once in a calendar year.

Sablan scored a net 68 to top the club's August qualifier held in conjunction with the 2008 Tournament of Champions last Aug. 2 at the Kagman venue.

Mangarero bettered that by a stroke after he carded a net 67 last Saturday at the Kagman venue's east course. The 12-handicapper did this by shooting a gross 79 built around a 39 in the front and a 40 in the back.

June winner Jordan Kossam, meanwhile, equaled Sablan's 68 with a front and back of 44-43 that allowed the 18-handicapper to finish with a gross of 87.

Tars Olopai, Louie Tilipao, and junior golfer Jay Choi also finished at either below or even par with 18-hole performances of 70, 71, and 72, respectively.

A total of 15 RGA members took part in the competition. The rest of the field, with their scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Adam Hardwicke (net 74), Tony Rogolifoi (74), Dwain Stephens (76), Joe Wabol (76), Jess Wabol (77), Bill Kaipat (77), Brett Nelson (79), Nick Sablan (78), Tom Tebuteb (85), and new member Fasalu Tigilau (101).

In the closest to the pin competition, Choi was without peer in hole No. 4, while Nick Sablan took home the prize in hole No. 15.

For more information about other competitions held by the club, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or tournament director Jess Wabol at 233-3673.

SaipanCell/PCA softball tilt raises cash prize to $1K

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2008 SaipanCell/Palau Community Association Softball Tournament will be held next month at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield with the champion team guaranteed to receive $1,000.

PCA president Rufino Aguon said they decided to increase the pot money from $500 to $1,000 to encourage more teams in joining the tournament, which will be slated for two weekends in September.

The first week of the tournament will be held on Sept. 20 and 21, while the playoffs are set for Sept. 27 and 28.

PCA will be accepting a maximum of 12 teams with each squad needing to pay an entrance fee of $400.

Interested teams have until Sept. 12 to submit their rosters and pay and registration fee. A mandatory meeting at the NMC Gymnasium is also set on the last day of the registration at 5pm. Schedule of games will be determined at the meeting.

The tournament will have a double-elimination format.

Aside from the $1,000 cash prize, this year's champion team will go home with a specially-carved wooden trophy.

The Inaugural SaipanCell/PCA softball tourney last year drew eight teams with No Ka Oi/Yes to Casino winning the championship game against the Warriors.

No Ka Oi went undefeated in the elimination round, earning a twice-to-beat advantage over the Warriors in the finals.

No Ka Oi shut out Aguaguat, 11-0, in its first game, then cruised to back-to-back wins via a 3-1 triumph against the Warriors. It swept the elimination round after another shut-out victory over Sedi Kau, 14-0.

The eventual champion took the title early when it prevailed in Game 1 of the finals, 6-3.

No Ka Oi was composed of Joey C. Dela Cruz, Mario Sablan, Mel Sakisat, Ton Camacho, Manny Sablan, Jerry Ayuyu, J.R. Suel, J.J. Laniyo, Roy Celis, Nick Castro, Elias Saralu, Toi Celis, Julian Camacho, and Ben Tagabuel. Roque Celis managed the team.

The softball tournament is a fundraiser for PCA, which is building an Abai (Palauan word for meeting place) on Navy Hill.

To register or for more information, contact Aguon at 234-5498, extension 2500, Normal Mobel at 322-9707, Eileen Kintol at 235-6804, or Brian Adelbai at 234-8438.

Jonathan Salas makes mark in Boise

Jonathan Salas had a busy schedule this month, suiting up for the Boise Gems and playing in two tournaments.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Golden boy Michael Phelps eager for his own bed

Michael Phelps kept every swimsuit, every cap, every pair of goggles he wore during nine magical days at the Water Cube.

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Rangers a win away from title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ford Rangers needed an extra inning to take Game 3 of the finals series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League and moved a win away from clinching the championship.

Shortstop Jesus Iguel hit a two-run single at the top of the 10th inning to lift the Rangers to a 9-6 victory at the continuation of the power outage-halted Game 3 last night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.

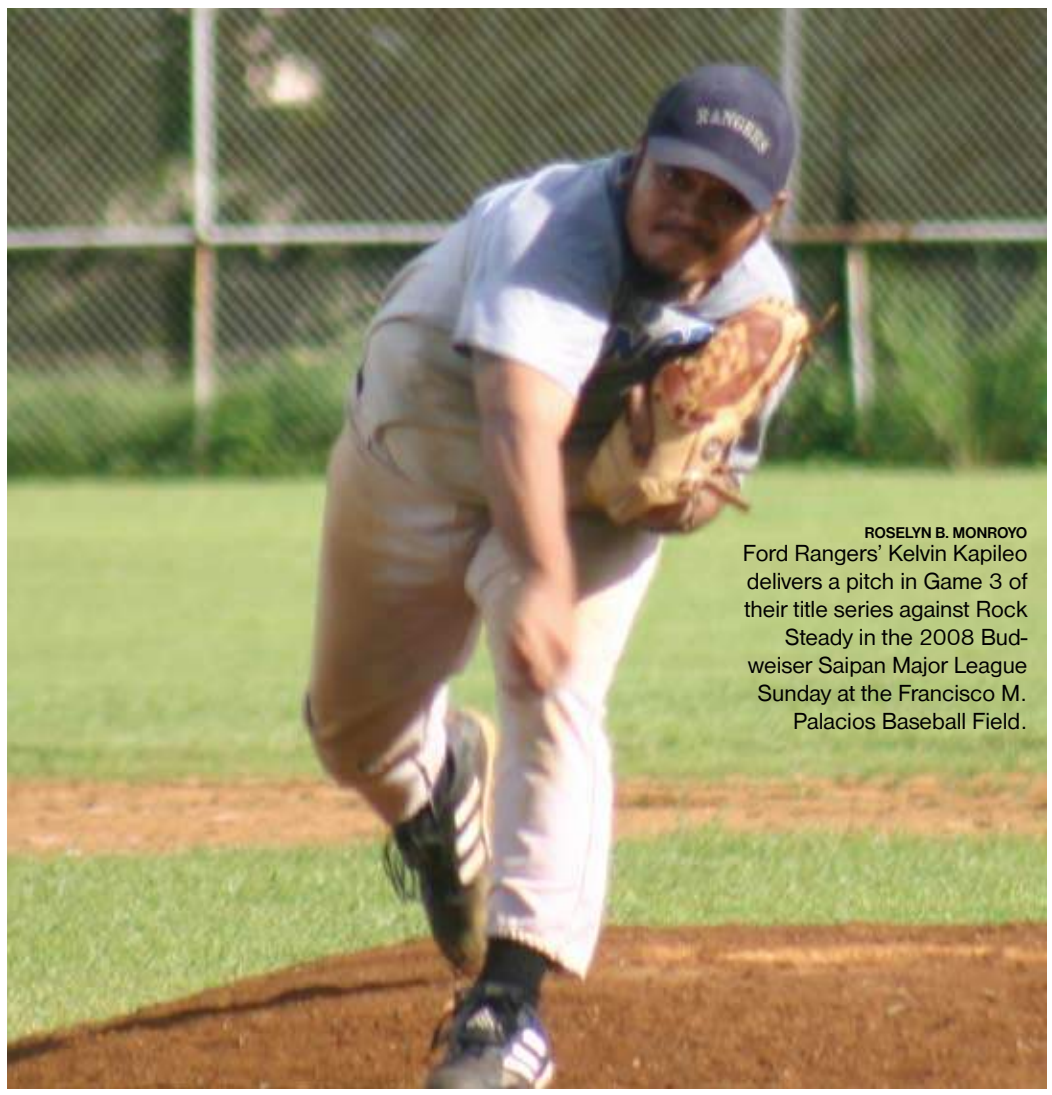
Game 3 was first played Sunday, but was suspended after the top of the ninth due to a power outage with the match tied at 6-all.

When the game resumed last night, Rock Steady needed only one run at the bottom of the ninth to claim the lead in the best-of-five championship series.

But the Rangers' defense hung on, allowing only one hit and giving up no runs. Rock Steady shortstop Oliver Secharmidal was beaten to first, then relief pitcher Mel Sakisat struck out Eric Lizama for the second straight out.

Nikki San Nicolas, who relieved Luis Iguel at bat at the bottom of the ninth, singled and later advanced to second on a stolen base. But he was stranded on second base after centerfielder and fourth batter Tyrone Omar was beaten to first, sending the game to extra innings.

See RANGER on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ford Rangers' Kelvin Kapileo delivers a pitch in Game 3 of their title series against Rock Steady in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League Sunday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Perfect start for Jones, Miller

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis team members Rafael Jones and Christian Miller swept their opening day matches in the ITF Oceania Plate Sunday at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

Jones, who finished fourth in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships last week, continued his impressive debut in Fiji winning all two matches in the junior boys division on Day 1.

Jones first defeated Guam's Cory Morrison, 6-2, 6-1, and completed an opening-day sweep with a 6-0 (retired) triumph over Muller Afemui of Tonga.

The 13-year-old CNMI netter now shares the Pool B lead with Devin Khatri of Fiji, who topped Afemui, 6-1, 6-0, and Christian Duchnak of American Samoa, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Jones was set to battle Duchnak and Alex Beddoes of the Cook Islands on Day 2 of the five-day tournament yesterday. Results of these matches were unavailable at press time.

Over in Pool A, Miller went

See PERFECT on Page 26

Liu out, Snowsill wins triathlon

By DENNIS PASSA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—A day after the all-conquering Michael Phelps packed up his swim bag one last time, the Beijing Olympics lost its biggest homegrown star.

Defending 110-meter hurdles champion Liu Xiang, one of the most recognizable faces in China and even more popular than basketball player Yao Ming, walked away from the blocks after pulling up during a false start in qualifying Monday at the Bird's Nest.

"We worked hard every day, but the result was as you see and it's really hard to take," said Liu's coach, Sun Haiping.

While Liu clutched his right leg in pain, an elderly woman in the stands wiped tears from her eyes, providing the most poignant example of what the 25-year-old hurdler, who had been affected by the injury for several months, means to many in his home country as it hosts the games for the first time.

Millions of Chinese who watched Phelps win a record eight gold medals in the pool

See LIU on Page 26

AP
China's Liu Xiang prepares for a men's 110-meter hurdles heat during the athletics competitions in the National Stadium at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Monday, Aug. 18, 2008.

Mieko to compete in XTERRA Japan

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mieko Carey will take part in the 2008 XTERRA Japan set for Aug. 30 in Marunuma, Gunma Prefecture.

Carey, who topped this year's XTERRA Saipan Championships, is expected to use the off-road triathlon event in her home country as preparation to the 2008 XTERRA Wold Championships set for Oct. 26 in Maui, Hawaii.

Like the regimen she used when she and her husband Kevin took part in the recent 2008 Ironman Kansas 70.3, Carey continues to follow the training schedule 2008 XTERRA Saipan champion Andrew Noble gave her early this year.

That entails her to go on two-three bike rides, some of them in hilly terrain, on Wednesdays. Thursdays and Saturdays are reserved for running exercises, while Sunday includes two hours of biking and an hour of running.

Carey also does her swimming practices almost daily at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, where she serves as assistant coach for the Saipan Swim Club.

Sponsoring her trip to Japan and Maui is Carey's longtime supporter Joshua Berger Law Office. She also hopes other businesses would help her finance her trip to XTERRA Japan as well as XTERRA World Championship.

Carey earned a third straight trip to Maui after finishing second behind XTERRA Saipan women's champion and professional triathlete Renata Bucher of Switzerland with a time of 3:33:29.

In the Tagaman seven days later, the pilates instructor came in third behind Bucher and fellow Japanese transplant Maimi Shimizu in 3:32:00. She then concluded her March run with a first-place finish in the Guam XTERRA, conquering the event in 2:47:15.

She and Kevin also took part in the aforementioned Ironman Kansas 70.3 last June 15 where she came in sixth in her age group (30-34 years old) and was the 21st woman overall to cross the finish line in a time 5:31:16.97.

MARK RABAGO
Mieko Carey, seen here in a file photo from this year's 2008 XTERRA Saipan Championship, will take part in this month's XTERRA Japan.